

LAST WEEK'S AVERAGE DAILY SALE 470,000 No 63,039

30p

After six hours of talks, the handshake of co-operation

Outrages give Anglo-Irish deal new hope

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

The British and Irish governments decided last night to give a fresh impetus to joint efforts to tackle terrorism following the recent outrages in Northern Ireland.

After six hours of talks between British and Irish ministers and police chiefs from the north and south of Ireland, the Anglo-Irish agreement appeared last night to be back on the rails after a difficult period.

Relations have been strained by the Stalker affair, the Gibraltar shootings and the outcome of the Birmingham public house bombings appeal.

At a meeting in which both governments were said to have been united in their

revulsion at last week's horrific events there was agreement to launch a new effort by the two police forces.

The effort will include tracking down arms shipments which have been brought into both countries for use by terrorists, drawing up a special programme to improve relations between the security forces and the community in Northern Ireland.

It seemed that the hitches over the agreement for two men are to be charged in connection with the murders of the two soldiers beaten and shot dead at the IRA funeral in Belfast. It is understood they will appear before a magistrate in the city today.

The two men were arrested after the killings when a black London-type taxi was stopped by police and troops in Andersonstown. Detectives are interrogating a third man.

extraditing terrorists from the republic were close to being solved.

Mr Tom King, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, speaking at a press conference after the talks at the Northern Ireland Office in London, said that it had been a "very worthwhile day."

He added: "There is no question but that it has given a new impetus to our work."

Mr Gerry Collins, the Irish Minister of Justice, said there had been goodwill on both sides and a determination to ensure that the agreement worked "irrespective of the difficulties that are there to be overcome."

Mr Collins said his mood was confident and "very much determined" to ensure that the agreement worked because there was no other option.

At the same time Mr King confirmed he is hoping to launch a new constitutional initiative among the political parties in Northern Ireland aimed at bringing devolved government to the province.

Yesterday's talks were attended by Mr Brian Lenihan, the Irish Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Collins, Mr King, Mr John Stanley, Minister of State for Northern Ireland, Mr Eamonn Docherty, the commissioner of the Garda

and the Sir John Hermon, chief constable of the RUC.

The Irish side emphasized its concerns over the Stalker report and called for the police arrangements at Ulster funerals and other public occasions, currently being reviewed in the wake of last weekend's atrocity, to be handled in a "sensitive manner."

The Irish made plain their belief that the province's problems cannot be solved by security measures alone and pressed for measures to build confidence in the administration of justice.

But both sides were voicing guarded optimism after the talks. It was the first full meeting of the inter-governmental conference since last October, and perhaps the most significant pointer to the readiness to heal recent wounds was the agreement to hold a further series of meetings beginning shortly after Easter.

Mr King said: "We have faced a number of problems in recent months, a number of difficulties, that have caused problems for the relationship between our countries under the agreement."

"I am absolutely clear of our common determination to make a success of the agreement to the benefit of all our peoples and to give a new impetus to the work and objectives of the agreement."

On the Irish request for sensitivity over the policing of funerals, Mr King said: "I think that view is widely shared." But he added: "The Chief Constable will ensure that the law is upheld."

Mr King confirmed that he would be meeting representatives of the Social Democratic and Labour Party next Tuesday as part of his efforts to restore dialogue.

Speaking afterwards at the Irish Embassy in London, Mr Lenihan said that the British Government definitely recognized that it would be essential to bring in basic reforms if Northern Ireland was not to disintegrate into anarchy.

Immediately after Easter there would be a further round of meetings to reach agreement on further security initiatives along with economic social judicial and police reforms.

Police chiefs meet, page 2



Mr Tom King greeting Mr Brian Lenihan at the start of the talks in London yesterday.

Benn opens leadership fight with Tory strategy as model

By Sheila Gann, Political Staff, Chesterfield

Mr Tony Benn launched his campaign to change the course of the Labour Party last night by calling on supporters to fight for "our people" with the same single-minded determination as the Conservatives.

Without resorting to personal abuse of Mr Neil Kinnock, he nevertheless implied that his leadership had contributed to the present stalemate in British politics.

Mr Benn's alternative strategy for the party, aimed at rekindling the socialist flame, relied on his off-repeated attacks on such policies as allowing Britain to be "occupied by American troops controlled by a President we do not elect and cannot remove."

He returned to his Chesterfield constituency, from where he plans to direct his leadership challenge, to launch his six-month campaign.

Speaking to a gathering in the local National Union of Mineworkers offices, Mr Benn sought to expose a raw nerve in the Kinnock camp by insisting the party must learn

again the lessons of solidarity. "Unless we hang together we shall hang separately. An injury to one is an injury to all. You do not cross a picket line."

"We know that, if we only applied that principle, the miners and the printers would have won their battle and finally damaged the credibility of the Government."

The reception given to Mr Benn and Mr Roy Hattersley, the deputy leader, later today when they speak at a regional

party conference in Skegness should give some sign of the strength of support for Mr Benn and Mr Eric Heffer's challenge to the leadership.

Mr Benn's specific targets were nuclear weapons, coupled with nuclear power, pit closures and Mrs Margaret Thatcher's "long-term war" against working people and their families.

In a further implicit criticism of Mr Kinnock he said that simply abusing Mrs Thatcher did not get to the root of the matter and did not even win public support.

"For the strength of the Tory Party does not lie on the green benches on the Government side of the House of Commons, but in the multi-nationals and the banks, the upper reaches of the Civil Service, amongst the military and security chiefs, in Washington and Brussels, and, above all, in the hands of the media which clearly seeks to persuade us that we have got to accept our fate."



Benn: Opening campaign.

Lawson agrees uneasy truce

By Rodney Lord Economics Editor

A ceasefire was agreed between the Prime Minister and the Chancellor yesterday after a lengthy discussion of economic policy at Downing Street.

A stable pound was desirable but the priority of fighting inflation would sometimes require changes in the trading range for sterling, they decided.

The meeting was also attended by the Governor of the Bank of England, Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton, and a number of advisers. It was described by No 10 as a good and amicable discussion.

Relations have been strained between Mrs Thatcher and Mr Nigel Lawson for weeks.

He has put at the centre of his economic policy a stable pound. But at a meeting 11 days before the Budget Mrs Thatcher insisted that the

Pound, shares hit... 25
Kenneth Fleet... 27

intervention required to keep the pound within its trading range was too great and that the rate should be uncapped.

Yesterday's meeting, which lasted from 11am until after lunch, was called partly to coordinate a defensive line for the Governor and the Chancellor both of whom are due to give evidence next week to the Treasury and Civil Service Select Committee.

In response to questions on the Government's monetary and exchange rate policy the Governor and Chancellor will emphasize that exchange rate stability remains a desirable objective. Britain is committed to an agreement with the other countries of the Group of Seven, aimed at keeping exchange rates in a stable relationship.

The most important rate for Britain is the rate against the Deutschmark. The Chancellor is expected to say that because the EEC is Britain's major trading partner the DM rate is of prime importance to industry and therefore to the Government.

The Chancellor will justify last week's cut in interest rates by pointing out that as a result of the rise in the pound monetary policy has effectively been tightened.

Mr Lawson has for the last two years been converted to the desirability of joining the European Monetary System as a full member. The Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, is also in favour of full membership of the EMS.

Mrs Thatcher, however, remains an instinctive dislike of intervention in markets necessary to keep the pound in a stable relationship vis-a-vis other currencies.

THE TIMES

The best read paper

● The Times is the best-read quality newspaper among middle and high earners, according to British Market Research Bureau survey figures for non-specialist newspapers.

● In the income bracket between £25,000 and £29,000, 25.5 per cent take The Times. This compares with 17.5 per cent for The Daily Telegraph, 16.4 per cent for The Guardian and 13.5 per cent for The Independent.

● In the £30,000 or more bracket, 29.1 per cent take The Times, compared with 20.3 per cent for the Telegraph, 15.6 per cent for the Independent and 11.8 per cent for the Guardian.

● In the £50,000 or more bracket for household income, 31.7 per cent take The Times, compared with 25.2 per cent for the Telegraph, 15.4 per cent for the Guardian, and 13.2 per cent for the Independent.

● The survey, conducted for advertisers among 5,500 earners, shows that Times readers are two-and-a-half times more likely to own property abroad than readers of any other newspaper.

● In their leisure time, 29.9 per cent of higher income earners who go to at least three classical concerts a year read The Times compared with 20.3 per cent for the Guardian, the nearest rival. Of those who attend more than one rock concert a year, The Times also leads with 20.4 per cent.

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● Yesterday's £4,000 winner, page 3

● Portfolio list, page 29

TOURNAMENT OF THE MIND

● Final answers to the tournament: page 14

Seizure threat to seamen

By John Spicer Employment Affairs Correspondent

Leaders of the National Union of Seamen were warned yesterday that if they organize strike action next Wednesday after their national ballot, they are in danger of having their assets seized by the High Court.

Mr Justice Michael Davies told lawyers acting for the union that he would issue the writ, but if no action was taken it would lapse after 28 days.

The judge had accepted an argument by P&O European Ferries that the national strike ballot called by the union's

Continued on page 24, col 1

IN PART 2 Loan rush

Banks and building societies are speeding up loan applications to beat the multiple mortgage tax relief deadline.

Family Money, pages 30-36

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Workers resist production targets

Jaguar faces all-out strike

By Craig Seton and Daniel Ward

Four thousand manual workers at Jaguar in Coventry have voted by a big majority for an all-out strike in protest at the company's plans to increase production.

The ballot at the Browns Lane factory, where assembly-line workers earn more than £220 a week, showed 2,410 in favour of a strike and 1,312 against when the result was declared yesterday.

Union leaders said that the strike would go ahead after the Easter holiday unless Sir John Egan, Jaguar's chairman, suspended plans to step up production by 92 cars a day to increase the annual output from 48,000 to 56,000 this year.

The company argues that its workforce of 12,700 is sufficient to produce 1,300 cars a week, or 60,000 a year. It says

that improved productivity and more automated machinery will push up output to 80,000 annually by the mid 1990s.

Workers believe it is not possible to increase production enough to earn the additional £12.50 a week bonus offered by the company.

Mr David Boole, Jaguar's director of public relations, 'Aggressive' demands 2 said that 1,000 extra workers had been taken on by the company last year to achieve the new production rate.

Mr Chris Liddell, the local Transport and General Workers' Union official responsible for the motor industry, said there was probably room for more production.

However, he emphasized that "the unions will not tolerate management by dictat. The unions are also saying there is not sufficient time in certain areas to accommodate 92 more cars. They need more hours or more manpower. It is not a question of money."

Jaguar needs to improve productivity to cut costs at a time when profits are under attack from unfavourable exchange rates. Last week, the company announced that profits for 1987 were down to £97 million from £121 million in 1986.

Sir John aims to push up output per man by 10 to 15 per cent a year and has set a target of matching Mercedes's productivity of six cars per man per year by 1990.

Frostbite forces British team to end polar trek

By Ronald Faux

Sir Ranulph Fiennes and his two companions yesterday abandoned their attempt to walk, hauling their supplies, 425 miles across the frozen Arctic Ocean to the North Pole.

The Great British Polar Quest, patroned by the Prince of Wales, ground to a halt after 15 days some 40 miles north of the starting point on Ward Hunt Island when Fiennes developed severe frostbite in two toes.

The expedition had endured severe conditions, strong winds and temperatures below minus 50 degrees C which made the conditions of the ice impossibly difficult for hauling their three sledges and their 370lb loads.

Polar Control in London said yesterday that the three explorers were bitterly disappointed but had decided to stop because Sir Ranulph, leader of the team, was at risk.

"The chance of survival for long is remote and the chance of reaching the goal totally remote. We do not think the risk is warranted."

The decision to stop was unanimous between Sir Ranulph, Mr Oliver Shepard and Dr Mike Stroud. Sir Ranulph added: "If the Arctic Ocean doesn't want you to cross it then that is the way it has to be."

Shepard and Stroud suffered frostnip in their feet, the stage before full-scale frostbite which can lead swiftly to gangrene. That was despite the full Arctic boots with double insulation layers which all three wore. Sir Ranulph had twice suffered frostbite on previous expeditions and that probably made him more vulnerable in the unexpectedly severe conditions suffered by the polar expedition.

The three are camped near a flat stretch of ice waiting for the weather to clear so that a twin Otter aircraft can fly 700 miles from Resolute to their position.

The same aircraft will also rescue an American woman, Pam Flowers, who had hoped to become the first woman to make a solo trip to the Pole. She set out along a route parallel to the British team's, using dogs to pull her sledges.

Radio messages intercepted by the British base have disclosed that Miss Flowers fell from an ice ridge two days ago, knocked herself out and broke her glasses. Her re-supply aircraft was due to drop another pair of glasses with her stores but before that could happen her camp was attacked during the night by a polar bear.

The animal ate a lot of her food and

Revolt spreads against poll tax at flat rate

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

The Government is facing a revolt after Easter because of proposals to impose a flat rate community charge to replace the rates.

Senior Conservative MPs, including Mr Michael Heseltine and Mr John Biffen, the former Cabinet ministers, tabled a proposed fundamental change to the poll tax. Bill of community charge paid by individuals would depend upon the rate at which they paid income tax.

Under the change, people on the standard 25 per cent income tax rate would pay the standard community charge. Those on the sole higher rate of 40 per cent would pay one-and-a-half times the community charge and those not liable to income tax would pay half the community charge.

The move, which has attracted the support of a wider spread of Conservative MPs than voted against the second reading of the Local Government Finance Bill last December, came as the Bill completed its committee stage.

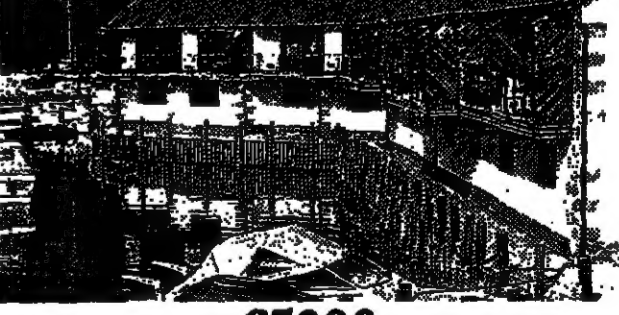
Mr Michael Mates, Conservative MP for Hampshire East, moved swiftly to table the amendment, which will be debated by the full House during the report stage.

MPs are hoping they can gain a big enough vote in the Commons against the flat-rate principle to give the Lords encouragement to amend the Bill.

Mr Mates said yesterday: "This amendment meets the concern of many of my Conservative colleagues who believe that the ability to pay must be taken into account in determining the level of the community charge."

The British team said in a joint statement: "No one wishes to continue as a separate unit. Further travel would be a waste of time and a great risk."

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NEWS ROUNDUP

£600,000 boost for Cleveland

The Government is to contribute £600,000 to the costs of the Cleveland child abuse inquiry in view of its exceptional nature and length. Mr Tony Newton, the Minister for Health, said in a written answer that £300,000 would go to Cleveland County Council and £300,000 to Northern Regional Health Authority.

● Social workers will be put under greater risk of abuse after social security reforms are implemented next month, it was claimed yesterday.

Mr Roy Crute, chairman of the British Association of Social Workers' working party on violence policy, said recent research had suggested that every one of Britain's 20,000 social workers could expect to be assaulted at least once a year.

Four had been killed in the past four years and the risks were increasing.

Secrets challenge

A judge's rejection of police demands for a secret hearing of an application to seize allegedly confidential documents from *The Independent* is to be challenged in the High Court.

The Director of Public Prosecutions wants set aside the decision of Mr Justice Owen to "uphold the fundamental principle of British justice" and hear the application in open court.

The police claim the documents on international co-operation against terrorism may help their investigations into a possible breach of the Official Secrets Act.

Doctor loses

The doctor accused of turning a patient into a zombie with hypnosis and a drug cocktail he called "Jaffe Juice" yesterday lost a High Court battle to clear his name.

Dr Joseph Jaffe, aged 62, of St John Street, Manchester, was seeking to quash the General Medical Council ruling that he was guilty of serious professional misconduct after he had improperly persisted in administering treatment to Mr George Watson, of Cheshire, affecting his capacity to fulfill domestic and business responsibilities.

Court lists guidance

The Home Office is to issue guidance to courts indicating that the press should have access to the name, address and age of defendants and the charge in advance of court hearings. The move was agreed at a meeting yesterday of newspaper editors, senior government officials from the Home Office and Lord Chancellor's department, magistrates and justices' clerks convened in the wake of concern about allegations of court secrecy. A recent report by the Association of British Editors alleged a number of cases where access to court hearings involving public figures had been impeded by court officials.

Sheikh's plea fails

Sheikh Yamani, the former Saudi Arabian oil minister, yesterday failed in the Court of Appeal to win a temporary injunction banning publication on Monday of *The Inside Story*.

Serialization of the book by Jeffrey Robinson, and published by Simon & Schuster, will also go ahead in a Sunday newspaper. A full appeal will be heard next Wednesday.

Lord Donaldson of Lynton, Master of the Rolls, regretted the courts could not act faster but said the Sheikh should have started proceedings earlier.

Mystery man hunt

Detectives searching for the killer of a woman found stabbed on a suburban London train are trying to trace a man seen to jump from a compartment close to that in which the woman died.

The man then rejoined the train on an open compartment at the front. Police believe he may have been the man seen running to catch the train at Shortlands in south London. The change of carriage came two stops later at Fenge East.

Miss Debbie Linsley was found dead on the 2.16 pm from Orpington to Victoria.

Owenite suffers rout

The Social and Liberal Democrats have gained a crushing victory over Dr David Owen's SDP in their first electoral contest. Mr Steve Parkhouse, of the SDP, on Thursday gained a Conservative seat on the Mansfield district council in a by-election in which it obtained 36.2 per cent of the vote. The Owenite candidate took only 3.3 per cent in an area regarded as a stronghold for Owen supporters. The SDP also gained a Labour seat in a by-election in the London borough of Waltham Forest. Mr David Steel, joint leader of the SDP, said last night: "Our performance in real elections is far better than the opinion polls suggest. We will be looking for further signs of increasing public support in the local government elections on May 5."

Tourists get Aids warning

The World Health Organization is warning holidaymakers that the temptations of "sexual tourism" will put them at greater risk of Aids.

It is advising against having casual affairs or cohabiting with prostitutes, even in countries that claim to be Aids free.

Dr Jonathan Mann, director of the organization's special programme on Aids, says there are no "safe zones".

"By far the greatest risk of Aids is from sex with infected partners. Total abstinence, or staying with one faithful, uninfected partner is the surest way to avoid it."

Dr Mann says this week in a leaflet: "Don't take risks that could send Aids home with you. If this advice sounds strict, remember that in the absence of a vaccine or curative treatment for Aids, knowledge is the only protection."

Mixed response for King's initiative as Dublin and RUC police chiefs meet

'Shuttle diplomacy' derided Garda's unflinching leader

By Paul Valley

Unionist leaders yesterday responded unenthusiastically to the announcement that Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, is to begin a round of "shuttle diplomacy" to bring constitutional change to the province.

Mr King told Conservative MPs at a private meeting on Thursday that he intended to begin separate talks with the mainly Roman Catholic Social Democratic Labour Party (SDLP) next week and with the Unionists after that.

The discussions, which will be unconditional and without a set agenda, are to be confined to the issue of the constitutional future of the region.

Unionist leaders, however, were dismissive yesterday of Mr King adopting what one Tory MP described as "a Dr Kissinger role", unless the

minister had some substantial new initiative to offer.

The Rev Martin Smyth, Official Unionist MP for Belfast East, said that Mr King would get nowhere by "rehashing" his old approach with a new technique. "We will take some convincing that he is really saying anything different", he said.

Mr Nigel Dodd, spokesman for the Mr Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party, said: "We have made it clear we will not talk until the Anglo-Irish Agreement is suspended. If this is simply another tactic to get us to talk, directly or indirectly within the present framework we won't be having it. If he is talking about scrapping the agreement then we will be happy to talk."

The approach was treated more sympathetically by the

SDLP. Mr Daniel Keenan, its spokesman, said at its headquarters: "We are ready and waiting for talks. It's an initiative we've called for over the past two years. We are happy to get round the table with anyone so long as there are no pre-conditions."

● The funeral of the second Army corporal murdered during an IRA funeral in Belfast last Saturday took place in the Bedfordshire village of Westoning yesterday.

The body of Corporal David Howes was cremated after a 30-minute service at a St Mary Magdalene Church.

In contrast to the funeral of Corporal Derek Wood on Thursday, there were no Army uniforms or military ceremony. Apart from his family and friends just two official representatives attended.

Mr Eamonn Doherty, the Irish Republic's chief police officer, has a natural common identity with Sir John Hermon, the Chief Constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary: they are both Ulstermen, noted for their strong distinctive accents, their frankness, their toughness and their submissiveness.

Socially, both are colourful and gregarious. However, unlike Sir John, Mr Doherty is not known as a controversial public figure.

Mr Doherty, aged 64, was born in Buncrana in Co Donegal, one of the three Ulster counties which joined the new Irish state in the 1922 partition of the island.

From his Donegal home Mr Doherty can boast that when he looks towards the six Ulster counties which became North-

ern Ireland he looks southwards.

He joined the Garda in 1943 and rose through the ranks until his appointment last November as Garda Commissioner.

His main task is to modernize a largely rural force so that it can meet the triple challenges of IRA terrorism, gangsterism and drugs in Dublin.

He quickly forged a good working relationship with Sir John Hermon. Before the Irish government broke off the contacts between them over the Stalker controversy, Sir John and Mr Doherty had worked out a strategy to combat IRA terrorism.

Yesterday's meeting in London was therefore a "class reunion" for the men from Antrim and Donegal.

Mr Doherty shares Sir

John's impatience to get on with the job of defeating the IRA.

Mr Doherty has not flinched from enraging republican opinion by ordering tough action to be taken against IRA subversives and sympathizers. In close co-operation with Sir John, he organized a large-scale search for IRA arms last November.

After several embarrassing bungles by his officers in a kidnap case which brought taunts that they were "Key-stone cops", "the Doc", as he is known, has restored morale.

Mr Doherty will be exerting his influence to persuade Sir John not to return to saturation policing at paramilitary funerals. In return, Sir John will be impressing on Mr Doherty the importance of a more professional policing policy to meet the IRA threat.

Mr Doherty shares Sir

Ford blames union intransigence for scrapping of Dundee plant

By Roland Rudd and Kerry Gill

Ford of America's decision not to build a proposed £40 million electronics plant at Dundee came about because British unions could not "guarantee the conditions to make it competitive", it emerged yesterday.

The TUC delegation, which had hoped to persuade Ford to change its decision on the plant, emerged ashen-faced after a short and futile meeting with the company and flew back to London on the earliest available flight.

Mr Norman Willis, general secretary of the TUC, said the trip to Detroit "had not been a waste of time". However, Mr Bill Jordan and Mr Gavin Laird, president and general secretary of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, which signed a single-agreement for the plant, would not comment. Both appeared exhausted and bitterly disappointed at the rebuff.

In Scotland, anger and frustration boiled over at the decision. Mr Tom Mitchell, Lord Provost of Dundee, called on Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Secretary of State for Scotland, to make a final, personal plea to Ford.

"Mr Rifkind should fly out to Detroit and try and convince them himself. We in Dundee have done everything. We have the site, the people and the skill waiting for Ford", Mr Mitchell said.

He said: "There is a lot of anger in the city because Ford did say that if we could change the unions' minds, they would reconsider. Mr Rifkind should make one last attempt."

His call came as Lord Gould, chairman of the Scottish Conservative Party, and Mr Michael Heseltine, the former Cabinet minister, criticized union intransigence. Mr Heseltine said the unions and the Labour Party should never be forgiven if Scotland lost the contract.

Mr Rifkind said the Government's co-operation was not in dispute. "Obviously, from Ford's point of view, what they need is an indication of full co-operation from the trade union movement."



Mr Norman Willis with Mr Lou Rastovac, a Ford negotiator, before the talks in Detroit.

Naturally, we hope the union movement will be able to give them that assurance", he said.

The TUC delegation to Detroit had earlier been "cautiously optimistic" that it could salvage the agreement to build the plant. However, the optimism faded from the moment they arrived at the Marriott Hotel for talks with the company.

Mr Frank Macher, general manager of Ford's electrical electronics division, who cancelled his afternoon engage-

ments to meet the delegation, said the talks could last no longer than two hours.

Mr Don Sherman, a spokesman for the company, said no one had pulled out of the deal. "Ford has been prevented from signing the agreement", he said. He confirmed that "prevention" had come from "hostile unions".

The agreement was opposed by the Transport and General Workers' Union, which threatened to black-list the plant, and the manufacturing

science and finance unions, who were opposed to white-collar workers being represented by the engineering union.

Mr Willis told the Ford officials that the agreement with the engineering union, "stands in its entirety, without qualification and with the full endorsement of the TUC".

However, Mr Macher had demanded "unanimity of support" from all the unions. He said in a statement: "It is not preferable to spend

\$65 million to build a plant producing electrical engine control systems if we are not competitive with other electrical companies".

In the US, Ford negotiates a three-year deal with a single union, the United Automobile Workers, under which the terms and conditions are legally binding on both parties.

There are no ifs or buts. We believe a single-union agreement best represents the employees, which is preferable to multi-union representation", Ford said.

Highly publicized strikes in Britain, including industrial action at Ford of Britain, had a more damaging effect than the unions were willing to recognize. "Let's just say it did not help your case", Ford said.

Company officials also had doubts about whether the engineering union would be able to deliver the agreement. Ford had been looking at non-unionized plants in North America, where wage rates were lower, to "develop and produce state of the art electronics".

Mr Macher said: "There are a number of products that cannot compete effectively in the US market because they have to compete with Japanese, Korean or Taiwanese products. So we look for an alternative that lets us blend our labour costs and use electronics skills we've got to develop products that can be manufactured anywhere in the world."

One of the new plants was to have been located at Dundee. Although it was to have been unionized, it would not have come under Ford of Britain's blue-book agreement. Subsequently, Ford of Britain was never informed about the talks on the proposed plant because the terms and conditions were to be different.

Ford of America made clear yesterday that it no longer believed that union leaders could give them the guarantee they were looking for to build the plant. It said: "The next step will be deciding where to build the plant". All it would confirm is that Dundee will not be on the list.

Jaguar strike caused by 'aggressive' demands

By Craig Seton and Daniel Ward

Production workers at the Jaguar plant in Coventry yesterday claimed that the company's aggressive demands were to blame for what could be its first big dispute in three years.

"Even if we were given extra money we would still find it difficult to increase production", one worker among a group of three said as he sat against a wall, sipping beer from a can during the 30-minute lunch break.

"On our track we produce 10 cars a day and they want us to produce another one. We would have to find an extra three-quarters-of-an-hour to produce one more car and I do not think that would be possible."

Mr Tony Russell, shop steward for the Amalgamated Engineering Union, claimed that, apart from increasing production, Jaguar was also seeking to eliminate 79 jobs at the plant through

natural wastage and to cut overtime by 7,000 hours a week.

Overtime was required to recover production lost through plant breakdowns and bottlenecks.

He said that although there was an opportunity for manual workers to earn the extra bonus "the lads do not believe it is a good deal to speed up the track and produce 92 more cars and cut available overtime. They are going to work a lot harder and they do not believe it is good for the money."

"We have never had sufficient outside parts coming in on time to do these sort of figures", Mr Russell said.

One worker said that it was possible, after starting work at 7.30am, to have completed the 10 cars required from that track by 3.15pm or 3.30pm if there were no hold-ups, but, before clocking off at 4pm, they also had to prepare for the next day's work.

Another said: "All the tracks are stretched. I do not think we have any time to do more."

There had been trouble with the paint booths at Castle Bromwich, the plant where Jaguar bodies are produced. "If they cannot supply the bodies we do not get our full week's bonus, but that is not our fault", he said.

A second shift at the Castle Bromwich paint plant was introduced last month to overcome production bottlenecks, but the management has made it clear that bonus payments, now more than £34 a week, will be reduced for all workers if production is slowed down because of problems at any of its factories.

The men also criticized the claim made by Sir John Egan, the Jaguar chairman, that whenever he walked around the assembly hall at about

3.15pm he hardly ever saw anybody working.

One of the three said: "I fit the trim inside cars. I have got to do 10 cars a day and then that is it for the day. I have never seen the chairman walking round. We only ever see him at Christmas when he shakes a few people's hands."

The plant operates an eight-hour day from 7.30am until 4pm on the day shift, with 30 minutes for lunch and a 10-minute break in the morning for coffee.

Most of the manual workers stay inside the plant and take food and drink from vending machines or the canteen, which, Mr Russell pointed out, was not subsidized. Only a few workers who live locally could go home for lunch.

The night shift starts at 7.30pm and operates a 10-hour shift for four days.

Ministry to give Trident evidence

By Michael Evans Defence Correspondent

Ministry of Defence officials expect to be questioned over the Trident missile programme next week when they give evidence to the Commons defence committee about admitted delays and slippages.

Top nuclear experts at the ministry have been called to give more details about the building programme and the building delays at Aldermaston, the atomic weapons establishment in Berkshire, as well as problems over the development of submarine systems. The Government remains confident that in spite of setbacks, the first Trident submarine, HMS Vanguard, will be ready for service on time. As each Trident submarine is brought into service it replaces one of the four Polaris boats until a change-over has been made.

The Prime Minister has said publicly that Trident would be deployed in 1994. However, it is clear from written answers to the Commons defence committee that there may be contingency plans to extend the life of a Polaris boat ensuring an adequate mix of Polaris and Trident submarines in the mid-1990s.

Declassified answers from the ministry disclose that a decision will be taken in June as to whether a Polaris submarine, HMS Resolution, should be given a fourth re-fit.

According to the ministry's answers, Resolution's last re-fit was completed in 1984 at a cost of £114 million. Re-fits take two years and another overhaul would probably cost more than £120 million.

The Polaris rockets have had new motors and the Chevaline warhead system, which includes decoys and cost £1 billion to develop, has been fitted to all the missiles.

The construction of the Trident hulls continues according to schedule at the Vickers Shipbuilding and Engineering yard at Barrow in Cumbria. Officials at the yard said yesterday that there had been no difficulties, apart from one extraordinary incident: sections of a Trident submarine were washed overboard from a cargo boat during a storm into the Irish Sea last February during transport from a steel company on the Clyde down to Barrow. Vickers and the ministry say the loss, involving five sections, will not delay the programme.

Sources said yesterday that all the sections are to be salvaged.

Yesterday a spokesman for Plessey Naval Systems, prime contractor for the sonar equipment, said initial difficulties had been ironed out.

The ministry, Plessey said, had changed the specifications for the sonar systems on a number of occasions. Plessey won the contract to supply five sonar systems for Trident at about £18 million each.

Hamburg offer to Bogdanov

By Andrew Billen

Mr Michael Bogdanov, one of Britain's leading directors, is to leave the country for West Germany where he has been asked to become director of one of its national theatres.

Mr Bogdanov, aged 49, last night ended eight years as associate director of the National Theatre, where he staged the controversial *Romanians in Britain* in 1980. He is joint artistic director of the English Shakespeare Company.

The Department of Culture has asked him to head the Deutsches Schauspielhaus in Hamburg from autumn next year.

His name emerged as favourite for the position after a lobby by theatre staff and management.

Mr Bogdanov said yesterday: "It is almost unique for an English director to be approached to take charge of a major theatre in Europe and I am very excited by the offer."

His salary is likely to be greater than anything comparable on offer in Britain and the Schauspielhaus enjoys a budget the size of the National Theatre's in London.

Mr Bogdanov added: "I have been disillusioned by British theatre for years, but that is not why I am considering going. It is the sort of opportunity it is difficult to turn down."

● The Royal Court theatre in London is to advertise the job of artistic director.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

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P&O cancels Dover to Calais service

By Andrew Morgan

Strike action has meant the cancellation this weekend of all British-crewed P&O sailings from Dover to Calais and Boulogne, as well as those operated by the French company SNCF. However, in the Easter build-up, all other companies are operating normally.

P&O has already announced the cancellation of its Easter sailings because its ships would not be ready in time, even if the strike was settled. Other companies are hoping to absorb many of the berths lost over the four-day Easter holiday due to the loss of 60 P&O outward crossings from Dover to Calais and 24 to Boulogne.

However, the Dover Harbour Board has urged travellers to stay home unless they have firm bookings.

Sealink is expecting its Dover-Calais crossings on the St Austell to be very congested this weekend. However, the sister ship, St Christopher, will be

operational again on Monday after a refit and pressure should ease slightly before the Easter weekend build-up.

Sealink's Portsmouth-Cherbourg route, due to begin next Wednesday, will start today and its Weymouth-Cherbourg route operates as normal.

P&O is still operating six crossings a day between Dover and Ostend with its *Brigitte* crews. Those are virtually full, but a seventh crossing will operate from Good Friday.

P&O is also operating as usual from Portsmouth to Le Havre and Cherbourg. However, the Felixstowe-Zeebrugge route is operating at half capacity after a fire on the Nordic ferry on Thursday. The company says that will mean complications for those with bookings and passengers should call 0304 203388 for information.

Britannia Ferries, with French crews, is

operating normally from Portsmouth to Caes, Portsmouth - St Malo and Plymouth - Roscoff. Limited car and passenger space is available, but no cabins.

Hoverspeed is operating normal crossings from Dover to Calais and Boulogne, but there is no more car space this weekend. Day-trippers and "non-landers" have also been stopped. There is some capacity for foot passengers, but travellers are urged to book.

Sallyline is working as usual, with five return crossings between Ramsgate and Dunkirk. All passengers with reservations will be carried, but those without tickets should telephone.

A spokesman for the Passenger Shipping Association said that many of the travellers with cancelled P&O tickets could find places on other lines, but some would be disappointed.

Boy jailed
of pupi
friend r

Rise in car
insurance
set to show

Set to show

Set to show

Set to show

Set to show

Set to show

Boy jailed for death of pupil in 'girl friend rape case'

A public school pupil convicted of murdering a boy who allegedly raped his girl friend was yesterday sentenced to be detained during Her Majesty's Pleasure.

By a 10-2 majority a Central Criminal Court jury found Andrew Richens, aged 18, guilty of stabbing to death Wai (William) Choi, aged 17.

As he began his indefinite sentence yesterday the beautiful teenager for whom he had killed was studying in Hawaii.

Women on the Central Criminal Court jury wept as they reached their verdict of guilty to murder. They had heard a bizarre story of secret sexual intercourse, drugs and drink at £6,000-a-year Dover College, of which the Queen Mother is patron.

Richens, of Borough Green Road, Ighiteam, Kent, stabbed Choi with his Scout sheath knife and then slit his throat in the bath. They were pupils at the public school, where Richens met and fell for Sabrina Ngai, aged 17.

Richens said: "She was the only person that I ever loved. It was more than just a sexual attraction between us. I cared about her before I cared about anything else."

Mr Gilbert Gray, QC, for the defence, said: "School-teachers at the school gave golden opinions of Richens and rightly so. This appalling and catastrophic killing has cast a heavy shadow across the life of Richens. He is irredeemably sorry for what he has done."

The killing of Choi happened at a time when there was immense tension in Richens' family, Mr Gray said. Richens' parents' marriage had since broken up, and he felt responsible.

Richens stood with his head bowed as the jury of eight women and four men took four-and-a-half hours to reach their guilty verdict.

Richens told the court that Ngai, the daughter of a millionaire Japanese account-

ant, was devastated by the rape. She felt her honour had gone and life was not worth living.

So when Choi taunted him afterwards, saying: "She probably never had a real man before", he flew into an uncontrollable rage.

Richens, a brilliant sportsman and scholar, was set for a career as a lawyer. Ngai, the girl he loved, who is distantly related to the Malaysian royal family, was more interested in having a good time.

She introduced him to drink, drugs and sexual intercourse and finally fled back to the protection of her powerful and wealthy family, leaving Richens to stand trial alone.

Detectives said that if she returned to this country she

● I cared about her before I cared about anything else ●

would be arrested for helping Richens to dispose of Choi's mutilated body in a bizarre midnight burial.

During his summing up on Thursday the judge, Mr Justice Pann, said there was some doubt as to whether Sabrina had in fact been raped by Choi.

He said: "It may well be that this girl is making up a pretty good deal and getting herself in a compromising position; that she was laying it on a bit thick in case he (Richens) suspected that she might have been encouraging William."

Although Richens has been deserted by Ngai, and probably will never see her again, he told the jury in a whisper: "I still love her". He disclosed that he knew she was in Honolulu, studying at Hawaii University.

Richens, a prefect and house captain, was described as extremely popular with both staff and pupils. He was in the school rugby team, a devotee of karate and a fine cross country runner.

Mr Gray said: "His future

promising prospects of going to university must now be closed. He is now going to study with the Open University while in prison."

The court heard that when Richens met the girl it was the beginning of his downfall. She was a fellow sixth former with a reputation for having a good time.

Richens' chemistry teacher, Dr Elizabeth Lovick, told the court: "He was besotted with her. He couldn't see any wrong in her. He thought she was marvellous."

Richens found Ngai's life-style exciting. He was asked to leave school after Mr Jack Lind, the headmaster, learnt he had been using drugs.

Mr Lind became head in 1981 and had a reputation as a disciplinarian.

He introduced a six-inch rule that meant that male pupils were not allowed within that distance of a female student. The school, founded in 1871, has a total of 130 girls out of 370 pupils. It went co-ed in 1979 and its governors include the Bishop of Dover and the Earl of Guildford.

A former teacher at the school, Mr Alan Beresford Walker, said that since the killing on December 1, 1986, Richens had changed. "He has become scarred, more experienced in the seamy side of life. You have a boy who is very different from the promising young student I knew and taught."

The court heard that Richens had obtained a temporary job in the Law Society in Chancery Lane, central London, when Sabrina rang and told him she had been raped.

Sabrina had been staying at Choi's flat in Ashdown Way, Balham, south London.

Choi, the son of a Hong Kong psychiatric nurse, had a reputation at the school for molesting female pupils.

Richens told the jury that Choi had raped another pupil.

Crowning glory for an actor



Lyndon Davies, aged 15, who is joining the Royal Shakespeare Company, alongside the playwright's memorial and the figure of Prince Harry in Stratford-upon-Avon yesterday. The young actor, who was in *The Singing Detective*, will appear in three plays, as Prince Arthur in *King John*, the Prince of Wales in *Henry VI Part II*, and Prince Edward in *Richard III*.

Broadcaster told to cut high spending

Mr Frank Delaney, the broadcaster and journalist, was ordered to pay maintenance of £13,000 a year plus a bill for maintenance arrears and legal costs after obtaining a divorce in the High Court yesterday.

Mr Justice Lincoln told Mr Delaney, who presented the BBC Radio 4 programme, *Bookshelf*, that he would have to "cut back on his high spending" to meet payments to his former wife.

Mr Delaney, aged 45, was granted a divorce on the ground that he and his wife, Elizabeth, had lived apart for more than five years.

Mrs Delaney, aged 46, a secretary, who lives at their former home at Flower Grove, Co Dublin, in the Irish Republic, had contested the

divorce on the ground that she would suffer grave financial hardship if it was allowed.

The judge said he took the view that Mr Delaney, who married his wife 22 years ago when they were bank workers in Ireland, could afford to meet the financial orders out of his estimated gross earnings of more than £40,000 a year. He accepted the orders might mean Mr Delaney would have to sell a £120,000-plus property he owned at Clapham, south-west London.

However, he considered that in view of Mr Delaney's financial obligations to his wife and three sons, aged 21, 17 and 12, acquisition of the Clapham property, which was used as an office to house his books and for his children

when they visited him, was not a reasonable requirement.

Nor was it necessary as accommodation for Mr Delaney, the judge said. It was adjacent to premises in Old Town, Clapham, belonging to Miss Susan Collier, a textile designer, with whom Mr Delaney had lived since 1985 and who he planned to marry.

The judge said Mr Delaney was a man who was "ready to run up debts because of his optimism about his future".

Such expenses were "remarkable" for a man who owed as much as Mr Delaney.

The judge said one set of figures showed that after expenses had been paid a gross income of £43,500 was reduced to £18,000 and that tax then had to be paid on the £18,000. "I cannot accept that, even in the world of the media, a man earning £43,500 gross is left with a mere £18,000 a year before tax."

He ruled that Mr Delaney must pay maintenance of £13,000 a year in respect of his wife and children and must pay off maintenance arrears and earlier legal costs, totalling £6,500, at a rate of £2,000 a year. He also faces a big bill for legal costs of the divorce.

Rise in car insurance set to slow

By Daniel Ward
Motor Industry Correspondent

Increases in car insurance are set to slow in 1988 with some insurance companies predicting increases of less than 10 per cent.

Next month Norwich Union, one of the country's leading insurers, will increase rates by 3.6 per cent compared with 12 per cent a year ago. Any rise in the autumn is also expected to be reduced.

Motorists can also look forward to fewer rises in insurance premiums, which have been as frequent as three times a year from some companies.

General Accident expects to keep increases this year in single figures, compared with rises of 25 per cent in 1986 and 18 per cent last year.

It said: "We can now contain our price increases as there are some signs that the number of claims is stabilizing though we do not know for how long this will continue."

The insurance industry says the big increases over the past three years are due to motorists making more claims for repairs and injuries, in addition to rising costs. In 1980 only one in every six motorists made an insurance claim each year but that has risen to one in four. It is that trend which appears to have stabilized.

However motorists are about to have to contribute towards the costs of broken windshields. Most drivers have been allowed to claim for that without losing their no-claims bonus, or making a cash payment.

Norwich Union estimates that the cost of windscreen repairs has more than doubled in three years to £10 million; from April motorists will for the first time have to pay the first £25 of any glass claim. Other insurers are reviewing the situation.

School heads want GCSE publicity campaign

By Sarah Thompson
Education Reporter

The Government should buy television time and newspaper space over the next three months to reassure parents, pupils and employers that the new GCSE examination is valid and worthwhile, the Secondary Heads Association said yesterday.

A review of the examination is already expected and in his speech to the heads' association last night Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education, promised that it would "look at the way course work is set and managed, to make sure that the burdens are reasonable".

He said that the examining boards would be reviewing the much criticized syllabuses and assessment procedures.

Speaking just before the start of the association's conference in Reading yesterday, Mr Peter Snape, its

general secretary, said: "Now is the time that employers are beginning to think about recruiting school leavers. Now is the time for the Government to make a big push to explain the exam to them."

Mr Michael Pugh, the SHA education committee chairman, said that while the large employers now knew what the GCSE involved, small local concerns often did not.

Small employers were still refusing to accept the idea that any grade in GCSE equals an achievement. "They still just want to know which grades are equal to an O level," Mr Pugh said.

He added: "If you can sell British Gas and British Telecom on TV why can't you have a few moments on TV to sell GCSE?"

In his speech to the association Mr Baker said it would be impossible for anyone to make unfair comparisons between schools when the Government introduces standardized tests

and forces schools to publish their results.

"We shall require some aggregated results of assessment and testing to be published. But that information will be at a level of generality and will need to be presented in ways to stop unjust comparison."

Mr Baker also announced that he was going to set up a second working group on English teaching, which would "build on" the work of the committee chaired by Sir John Kingman.

The move will be seen as an attempt by Mr Baker to receive backing for his aim of traditional learning of grammar and spelling.

He has already been disappointed by the initial proposals by the working group on mathematics which, alongside the Kingman committee and the science working group is laying the groundwork for the proposed core curriculum for all schools. The

mathematics group did not lay enough stress on the acquisition of basic arithmetical skills.

Mr Baker said that recent amendments to the proposals for a national curriculum should "allay many fears" about it. "We have made it clear on the face of the Bill that an order cannot prescribe school timetables, or the amount of time which should be spent on a subject."

Earlier in the day, Mr Baker met Mr Neil Fletcher, leader of the Inner London Education Authority, for the first time since the Secretary of State announced the abolition.

During their 20-second confrontation at the Teaching as a Career exhibition at the London Business Centre in Islington, north London, Mr Baker simply nodded as Mr Fletcher angrily told him: "You should feel ashamed at the cuts you have deployed. You have a nerve coming here. I think it's a disgrace."

1

DAY TO GO

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Smooth as silk.

Sunday shopping court test

By Rosemary Unsworth, Retail Affairs Correspondent

Two High Court judges were asked yesterday to determine when a shop is not a shop, in a case which could have wide implications for Sunday trading laws relating to department stores.

Ilkeston Co-Operative, of Derbyshire, was fined £1,600 with £350 costs by local magistrates for opening the travel agency, Ilkeston Consumer Co-Op Travel and Tours, on the top floor of its store on four Sundays, although other departments were closed.

Erewash council, which brought the action, had claimed that the co-operative breached the Shops Act, 1950, which prohibits Sunday open-

ing of shops with a few exceptions. However, Derby Crown Court ruled in October 1986 that the council had failed to prove the travel agency was a shop within the meaning of the Act.

The council is asking Lord Justice Bingham, sitting with Mr Justice Hutchison, to rule on whether the store was open even if the part of it which was open was not a shop.

The travel agency wanted to open "when it saw fit" and, in particular, during busy holiday booking periods in October, some weeks in December and in January, February and early March, rather than every Sunday of the year.

Mr Nicholas Patten, for the council, said: "In our submission this shop was not closed on Sundays because part of it, namely the top floor, was open." That the travel agency was a separate business made no difference.

"The fact is it was conducted within premises which the crown court determined as a shop. It follows logically and necessarily that the shop was not closed in totality on a Sunday", Mr Patten said.

The council action for a judicial review of the crown court decision was adjourned to a later date. Mr Chris Smith, for the travel agency, said it would not open this Sunday.

Mother jailed for putting son in dryer

A mother who laughed after switching on a tumble dryer with her son aged two inside was jailed for 18 months yesterday for cruelty.

The woman, aged 25, a nursing assistant, of Caterick, North Yorkshire, sobbed as Judge Hopkin told her it had been a "wicked, cruel act" which had petrified the boy.

She was also sentenced to six months' imprisonment, to run concurrently, for assaulting her son. She was found guilty at Nottingham Crown Court two weeks ago.

The judge said yesterday he would take no further action against Mr Ian Matthews, a social worker, whose evidence he had said was unsatisfactory.

The judge has called for an explanation of why the boy was allowed to stay with his mother after police decided to prosecute her.

The boy is expected to remain with his father.

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Hurd steps up fight against despair as crime rise slows

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Cynicism and despair about crime are out of date, Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, said yesterday as figures showed that recorded crime in England and Wales rose last year by only 1 per cent.

That compared with an annual average of about 6 per cent for the past 30 years.

Mr Hurd said: "The notion that nothing can be done about crime is losing ground. There is still a very long way to go. Last year's result might be a blip on the chart."

"We need to direct an increasing police effort against crimes of violence," Mr Hurd said.

The figures suggested the strategy for tackling crime may be beginning to work, although they were still far too high, Mr Hurd said. Burglaries and thefts of vehicles were both down 5 per cent.

He told the *Devizes Conservative Association*: "The police and public working together have started to outwit the burglar, and that is a big achievement."

"The figures show that rising crime is not inevitable. It can and will be cut back through determined action by the growing partnership between active citizens and the police, of which the 45,000 neighbourhood watch schemes are the most important example."

The slowing in the crime

rate, described by Mr Hurd as "significant", is detailed in a Home Office statistical bulletin.

The Government, however, is concerned about offences of violence against the person, which rose by 12 per cent in 1987, compared with an average increase of 4 per cent a year between 1980 and 1986. Murders rose slightly, from 661 in 1986 to 689.

Robbery and theft from the person together rose by 2 per cent. Robbery by itself increased by 9 per cent but over half of the recorded offences were in the London area; outside the larger towns robbery is infrequent.

Recorded sexual offences went up by 11 per cent in 1987, after increases of 6 per cent in each of the two preceding years. Most of the rise was accounted for by indecent assaults on women.

Mr Hurd promised he would not underestimate the impact of violent crime on people's lives. However, the policy of increasing police manpower — by almost 20,000 since 1979 — and of encouraging chief constables to deploy more officers on the beat was paying dividends.

The police clear-up rate for crimes of violence against the person and for sexual offences rose from 71 per cent in 1986 to 75 per cent last year.

For the most serious violent offences the improvement was

even stronger, Mr Hurd said, with a rise from 73 per cent to 78 per cent in 1987.

"The more we can release the police from the burden of having to investigate minor crimes which should have been prevented, the greater the effort they can devote to improving further these clear-up rates for serious crime."

The bulletin says the number of offences cleared up overall as a percentage of those recorded was 33 per cent in 1986, 35 per cent in 1985 and 1984, and 37 per cent in 1983.

The proportion of violent offences against the person cleared up in 1987 was, at 75 per cent, the same as in 1983 after a fall in between.

Mr Hurd said crime was less in those areas where it had traditionally been worst. In London, Merseyside, Greater Manchester and the West Midlands crime declined.

"It continued to rise apace in traditionally more peaceful places, showing quite clearly that those who argue that crime is inevitably caused by deprivation have got it wrong."

The peak age for offending was 15. "We must look to all those with an influence on the ideas of young people — parents, schools, the churches, the media, the youth service — to help channel youthful energy and idealism to constructive ends, and to establish clear standards of right and wrong."

"There are values and standards which must be maintained and nurtured — respect for the rights of others, a rejection of violence to settle disputes, and the responsibility for his or her own actions — if a free society is to thrive."

Home Office Statistical Bulletin: *Notifiable Offences Recorded by the Police in England and Wales 1987* (Statistical Department, Home Office, Lumar House, Croydon, Surrey CR0 9YD; £1.50).

All notifiable offences	
Theft from vehicle	44,800
Theft from shop	21,500
Theft from person	8,400
Other theft/handling	1,300
Burglary dwelling	1,500
Burglary other	23,000
Criminal damage	8,500
Violence against person	5,400
Sexual offences	500
Other notifiable offences	15,500
CHANGES IN RECORDED CRIME 1986-1987 (ENGLAND & WALES)	
Robbery	2,600
Sexual offences	2,500
Other notifiable offences	2,600

£22,000 award over falling rocks

A firm of builders was ordered to pay more than £22,000 yesterday after a court was told how a woman's home became the target for falling rocks from a quarry.

Miss Julie Forsyth, aged 26, a barrister, told the High Court in Liverpool that she had lived in fear since moving into the £29,500 semi-detached bungalow.

She said masonry had smashed through the bathroom window of her home as it tumbled from the quarry, although Merseyside-based Eaton Builders had assured her the property was safe.

"I am frightened every time I go home and each time I let the dog out or go outside. You can hear the rocks falling. They have even cracked the

pavement."

Mr Thomas Little, a chartered surveyor, told the court that work costing between £15,000 to £20,000 would have to be spent on stabilizing the quarry walls.

Mr Justice Causfield ordered the builders to pay £17,500 to make the quarry wall safe and to pay £5,000 to Miss Forsyth for discomfort.

'Shiny Sheff' joins Royal Navy



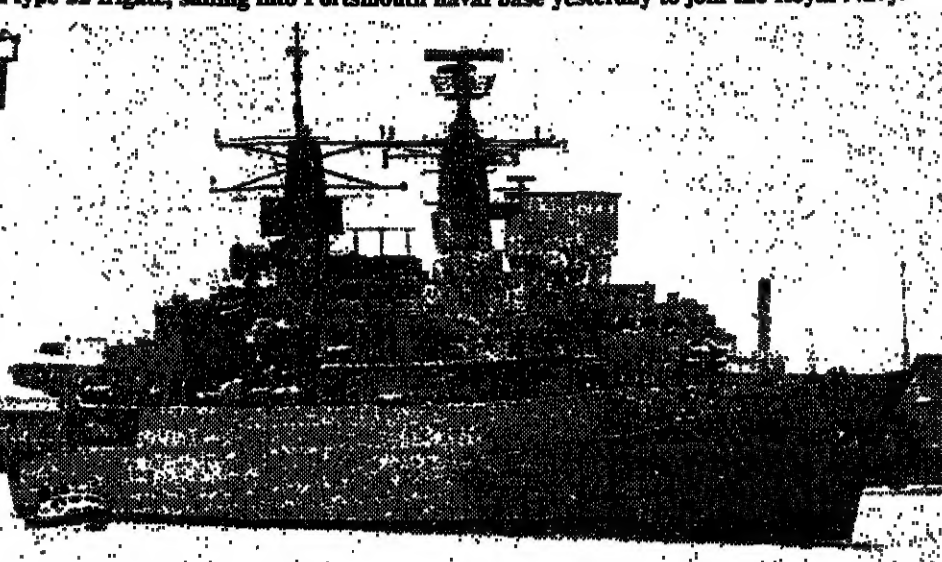
The new HMS Sheffield, a type 22 frigate, sailing into Portsmouth naval base yesterday to join the Royal Navy.

The "Shiny Sheff" sliced her way through grey seas yesterday to Portsmouth, where she was handed over to the Royal Navy.

HMS Sheffield, a type 22 frigate, revives the name of the destroyer which sank with the loss of 20 lives after being hit by an Exocet off the Falklands. Incorporating lessons learnt after that attack, the new Sheffield is to be commanded by Captain Nicholas Barker, a Falklands veteran.

The Sheffield is the third ship to bear the name: the first was a battle honour in the Second World War.

They were each called the "Shiny Sheff" because of gifts of stainless steel from Sheffield. The new frigate has gifts worth £50,000, including the ship's bell and cutlery.



Captain Nicholas Barker, her commander, on the bridge (Photograph: Peter Trievnor).

Jeweller's murder

Victim silenced 'as he knew robber'

A jeweller was murdered to stop him disclosing that one of his customers was an armed robber, a jury was told yesterday.

Leslie Mees, aged 29, was forced to crouch on the floor before being shot twice in the head with a shotgun from point blank range, the Central Criminal Court was told. He met his death during a raid on his shop, Rings and Things, in Leytonstone Road, Stratford, east London.

Mr Michael Worsley, QC, for the prosecution, said the jeweller may have been killed because he recognized one of the thieves, Michael Kendall, aged 25.

Mr Worsley told the jury:

"Kendall was known at that shop. He (Mr Mees) may have been silenced because it was more easy for him to identify someone he knew."

The court was told that Mr Kendall had twice visited Mr Mees' shop as a customer, once to have his wife's bracelet mended and again, two months before the killing, to have his watch repaired.

The jeweller's body was found by customers who called at the shop soon after the robbery.

Mr Worsley said the body was in a crouching, semi-kneeling position and the victim's fingers were covering his forehead and eyes.

Mr Kendall, of Stork Road,

Forest Gate, east London, pleaded not guilty to murder and robbery. Peter St Clare, aged 22, of Fern Street, Bow, east London, denies murder but admits being one of the robbers.

Mr Worsley alleged that both men had confessed to being present at the robbery but denied being the killer. St Clare said Mr Kendall had the gun when the shots were fired. Mr Kendall claimed a third robber named Terry had the gun. Mr Worsley said it was the Crown's case that there was no third robber.

A statement allegedly made by St Clare to detectives was read to the jury. In it he said: "It was an accident. It was just

meant to be an ordinary bag. It went off. Micky had the gun."

St Clare told the police he and Mr Kendall planned the raid together and thought it would be easy. They drove to the shop and Mr Mees let them in.

"Micky pulled the gun out of a bag and told the man to move out of the way. I started pulling things out of the safe," St Clare said.

As he was leaving the shop he heard two shots. When he and Mr Kendall climbed in to the getaway car "Micky was as white as a ghost. It had gone badly wrong."

The trial continues on Monday.

King's Cross fire inquiry

Plastic 'turned to killer gas'

Blazing plastic facing on a ticket office produced cyanide gas which in seconds killed many of the 31 people who died in the King's Cross Underground fire, a toxicologist told the disaster inquiry in London yesterday.

A "heavy concentration" of bodies was found near the ticket office in the centre of the Underground station booking hall, Dr Patrick Toseland, based at Guy's Hospital, said.

The plastic, melamine, had "by far the heaviest" concentration of cyanide-producing nitrogen of anything he had been told about involved in the fire, he said. Next biggest would have been the victims' own clothing.

Dr Toseland told the hearing that 17 of the victims

inhaled lethal quantities of cyanide gas, although some had lethal levels of carbon monoxide as well.

Those who also breathed lethal doses of carbon monoxide must have been taking in lower concentrations of cyanide, but for everyone "the issue would have been settled within minutes".

Questioned by Mr Simon Tuckey, QC, counsel for Proderite, a company from Wednesbury, West Midlands, which made paint used on the escalator shaft at the heart of the blaze, Dr Toseland agreed there was a "heavy concentration" of bodies near the ticket office. Victims of cyanide would not have got far from its source.

He accepted that all the objects destroyed in the fire,

the laminated ticket office was the one which had the most nitrogen in it and was therefore likely to produce the most cyanide.

Dr Toseland agreed with Mr Roger Henderson, QC, counsel to the inquiry, that many other substances would have produced cyanide before the ticket hall was affected.

Mr Michael Brough, a plastic surgeon, told the inquiry he had never seen "flash burns" as serious as those caused by burning gases at King's Cross.

Most of the injured "simply cannot speak about the incident", Mr Brough, consultant plastic surgeon at University College Hospital, London, said in a report.

The inquiry continues on Monday.

Bidding practice at auctions queried

By Sarah Jane Checkland, Art Market Correspondent

The issue of whether "puffing" at auctions should be made illegal has divided auctioneers and academics in the past week.

A "puffer" is defined in a recent Office of Fair Trading report as "one who has no intention to purchase the lot but is employed by the seller to raise the price by fictitious bids".

A regular, invisible feature at British auctions, he is often the auctioneer himself, bidding on behalf of the vendor to reach the reserve.

The issue this week was whether the practice is a criminal deception and there-

fore against the law.

The question came up at a conference on auction law and practice in London, run by Legal Studies & Services, and attended by about 50 auctioneers from all over the country.

Mr Richard Crewdson, a solicitor, of Waterhouse & Co, told the conference how most test cases on auctions took place in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, and were mostly about horses. In those days, buyers were unscrupulous and so the auctioneers learned how to build their own defences.

The immediate cause of this

week's argument was the Houghton Report by the Office of Fair Trading, a research document which calls for the law to be tightened by requiring the seller to have a notice published in the relevant catalogue of any right of his to have a puffer or the auctioneer to bid on his behalf.

Another speaker, Mr Frank Meisel, of Birmingham University, said he believed a vendor should be disentitled to bid for any of his own goods; and that the auctioneer or vendor should say whether the sale is with or without reserve. He also wanted auctioneers to be obliged to state

afterwards whether a lot has been bought in.

Auctioneers said that in practice the process of bidding is complicated, and that the system is acceptable as it stands.

They appeared to ignore changes in the law in New York, where the big art auction houses, Sotheby's and Christie's, operate.

There, the Department of Consumer Affairs instituted a rule 18 months ago whereby the auctioneer must announce whether a lot has failed to sell. However the issue of "puffing" in New York is still unresolved.

Dealers swoon over Victorian pin-up

SALE ROOM

by Sarah Jane Checkland
Art Market Correspondent

mated at £150,000 to £200,000.

"I think it is one of the most noble Victorian paintings on the market", Sir Hugh Leggett said. "I think it didn't fetch more due to a Calvinistic attitude in some institutions. It would be too erotic for their taste."

Apart from a number of impressive prices, the sale was not a great success, with a third unsold. A painting by the French artist Ferdinand Joseph Geuldray entitled "Bords de Marne" showing heavy men in striped shirts carrying their canoes to the river, sold for £68,200.

Humble coins from the English Civil War period became money spinners at Sotheby's two-day, coins, medals and numismatic books sale which ended yesterday.

A rare Charles I unite,

originally worth about £1, fetched top price of £16,500 to the London dealer Spink. It owes its desirability to its rarity — only five or six "unites" are known to have survived — as well as its charm. One side has a quaint bust of the king, one tiny hand clutching a sword, the other an olive branch.

A rare hoard of 3,160 third century Roman coins — dug up last year from a field in the Isle of Sheppey, Kent — sold for £4,620 (estimate £2,500 to £3,500), again to Spink.

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March 25 1988 PARLIAMENT

Tory accuses TV companies of 'collusion' with the IRA

A Conservative MP and former political journalist accused the broadcasting authorities of collusion with the IRA when they filmed demonstrations near Republican funerals in Northern Ireland.

Mr David Harris (St Ives, C), who is a former political correspondent of *The Daily Telegraph*, said that as a journalist, he had reported politics from Northern Ireland and had seen the situation on the streets. Speaking during a short debate in the Commons, he said that he had seen the difficulties faced, not only by soldiers and police, but by fellow journalists, particularly those in television, and camera crews. He accepted that camera crews were in the front line and in positions of considerable danger.

"I therefore appreciate the position taken by the broadcasting authorities, the BBC and independent television in trying to do everything properly to protect crews covering events in Northern Ireland."

"However, I believe that it is of prime importance, which overrides all other considerations, that they should make available to the RUC and prosecuting authorities all the evidence they have, particularly



Mr David Harris: Providing evidence must be the priority in trying to bring to justice those who committed the vile murder of those two soldiers.

There could be no question about that, and if the broadcasting authorities said that the main reason for their reluctance was to protect their own staff, that reinforced the need to review the television coverage by BBC, ITN and Radio Telefis Eireann of IRA-inspired events in Northern Ireland.

Such a review should take place in any case, and should have taken place even if the tragic events of last Saturday had not occurred.

Chief Rabbi attacks doctors over abortions

Doctors too often used "mental disorders" as a reason for carrying out abortions, Lord Jakobovits, the Chief Rabbi, said in the Lords. He accused doctors of using a legal subterfuge to get around the intention of the law.

He said that the law was plainly permitting abortion on demand.

Government figures for 1986 stated that out of nearly 135,000 legal abortions in England and Wales, almost 132,000 had been registered as due to mental disorders. "Our population surely cannot be all that mentally sick or at risk. Clearly, in the vast majority of cases, doctors resort to this euphemism simply because they otherwise would not remain within the bounds of legality."

Such semantic abuse of mental health as a cloak for personal convenience or social preferences perverted the intent

of the law and imposed unacceptable forms of misrepresentation on doctors, and made a mockery of the law.

It never seemed to occur to vociferous advocates of easy abortions that there was another option to prevent unwanted pregnancies. "That is to train people to exercise responsibility, to exercise some self-discipline and to cultivate a moral conscience."

Lord Skelmersdale, Under Secretary of State, Health and Social Security, said that the Abortion Act did not permit abortion on social grounds alone.

Two doctors were required to certify that the medical grounds required by the Act existed.

"The Government has no evidence that the Act is being abused but we stand ready to investigate thoroughly any such evidence that is put before us."

New EEC court gets backing

The proposal by the European Community to set up a Court of First Instance was welcomed by the Government. Sir Nicholas Lyell, Solicitor General, said during a short debate. It would, he said, improve the speed and quality of justice in the EEC.

The Community had doubled in size and this had resulted in the European Court of Justice having increasing difficulty in coping with its enlarged workload.

The new court would deal with competition, anti-dumping and steel matters as well as certain non-contractual liability claims and staff cases.

Early adoption and implementation of the proposal did not mean any new jurisdiction being created but a redistribution of existing jurisdiction.

WORLD ROUNDUP

Gephardt set for day of reckoning

Washington — The survival of Mr Richard Gephardt's presidential campaign is in the balance, with his showing in the Michigan Democratic caucuses today regarded as a critical test of his ability to hang on to his status as a front-runner (Christopher Thomas writes).

He has issued only a weak denial of a report that he will quit the race if he loses badly today. He was at the gates of a factory in Michigan yesterday at 6am, greeting workers as they clocked on, and again dodged questions about his intentions. Asked in a television interview if this was his "last stand", he said merely that he was getting a tremendous reception and expected to win the state. But his campaign has been in trouble since he picked up only his home state of Missouri out of 20 states in "Super Tuesday" races on March 8.

Bus crash kills 15

Madrid — A passenger train smashed into a nursery school bus on an unnamed crossing in north-eastern Spain yesterday, killing 15 people, 12 of them children (Harry Debelius writes). Eighteen other children were injured, four of them critically.

An immediate investigation into the accident near the city of Lerida was launched. The dead included the bus driver and a middle-aged woman teacher. Another adult victim was thought to have been a passenger on the train. Rescue workers said that all of the dead children were between the ages of about four and seven.

Missiles warning

Washington (Reuter) — President Reagan warned Israel yesterday not to mount a pre-emptive strike against Saudi Arabia's Chinese-built medium-range missiles.

The White House spokesman, Mr Martin Fitzwater, said that the US had no evidence Israel was planning air strikes but had urged calm on both sides. US officials, who asked not to be identified, said Washington was concerned that the introduction of such missiles into the Middle East might have a destabilizing effect, but Saudi Arabia had said it would not seek nuclear warheads and China had assured the US it would not supply them.

Airlift to halt locusts

Tunis (AFP) — The United States and France will ship emergency aid to Tunisia at the weekend in an effort to stop the march of huge swarms of locusts that have ravaged Algeria and crossed into Morocco. Two US transport planes carrying 13,000 gallons of pesticides will leave for Algeria at the weekend in an attempt to prevent the swarms from moving north into the southern Mediterranean, diplomatic sources said here yesterday.

Blast case man freed

Paris — The Public Prosecutor's Office has appealed against the release from custody of Mohammed Mouhajer, a Frenchman of Lebanese origins, a year after he was arrested on suspicion of being the mastermind behind a series of bomb attacks in Paris in 1986 which killed 13 people and injured 250 (Susan MacDonald writes).

M Mouhajer, whose father was a leading Shia dignitary in the Bekaa Valley, still faces charges of association with criminals and possession of arms and explosives. His release was ordered by an examining magistrate specializing in terrorism.

Meal tickets

New York — Manhattan restaurant owners breathed a sigh of relief yesterday after the FBI arrested 28 of the city's health inspectors and charged them with gross extortion (Charles Bremner writes).

The inspectors, who wore Rolex watches and drove Cadillacs, concentrated on the well-to-do East Side and would threaten to close eating places for offences such as "mouse droppings on the floor" before they demanded big pay-offs. One inspector, Joseph D'Esposito, was known to the restaurant owners as "Hungry Joe" because of his greed for free meals and thousand-dollar (\$550) bribes.

Army sent in to prevent Armenia unrest

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

More than 1,000 heavily-armed Soviet troops backed by low-flying military helicopters were yesterday patrolling the historic Armenian capital of Yerevan in a show of Kremlin strength designed to prevent any illegal demonstrations today by local nationalists.

Graphic details of the military operation — which has provoked widespread anger and threats of retaliatory violence from Armenians — were given to *The Times* by two Western tourists and two Armenian teenagers whom they brought to the telephone of a Yerevan hotel in open defiance of attempts by Moscow to impose a news blackout.

"The Armenian hotel staff are helping us make this call to you, they want the true story of what is happening to reach the outside world," explained Mr Anthony Desterre, a business student, aged 20, from London. "There are so many soldiers here, it is just like a war. We had 10 of them guarding the door of our hotel last night."

In Moscow, telephone calls from Western news organizations to dissonant sources with Armenian contacts were being immediately cut off by the KGB, which stepped up its anti-glasnost campaign after the Kremlin urged tough action this week against Armenian protesters.

Mr Desterre, one of only 20 Western tourists in Yerevan, said that the troops — all of whom were non-Armenian conscripts — had been rushed into the city in special buses on Thursday after a resolution on the month of crisis was passed by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet.

"About 15 of the buses have been parked in a semi-circle inside the main Opera Square to prevent any gathering of Armenians there and they are in turn surrounded by a ring of soldiers," the British student told me. "At the same time, posters have been going up all over the city telling people not to demonstrate on Saturday and there have been broadcasts on television, too."

New mass street protests had been called for because an unofficial deadline for a Kremlin decision on the crisis ends today, with the Soviet authorities having ruled out the demanded return of the mountainous region of Nagorno-Karabakh from Azerbaijan to Armenian rule.

Mr Desterre, who interviewed local Armenians in order to relay their views on the crisis, said that the tourists were being repeatedly approached outside the hotel as the only conduit for getting round the news blackout. "The soldiers have all been brought from outside and appear to have no idea where they are or what they are supposed to be doing," he added. "One asked a local Armenian here if he was in Afghanistan."

The military clampdown has been interpreted as a triumph for Kremlin hard-liners led by Mr Yegor Ligachov, the Communist Party's ideology chief, who have been infuriated that up to one million Armenian demonstrators were able to gather in Yerevan's Opera Square recently without any intervention by the security forces.

One 19-year-old Yerevan student told *The Times* "We are very sad and angry that the soldiers have been sent in like this. The Russians are treating the place like a colony. We are certain that what they are doing to us is against the Soviet Constitution."

Western observers believe that the strenuous attempts by the Kremlin to prevent details of the Yerevan military clampdown from being publicized result from a realization of the severe damage it will do to Mr Mikhail Gorbachev's efforts to promote a new liberal human rights image abroad.

The Armenian student, who did not want to give his name for fear of reprisals against his family, added: "The Armenian organizing committee has instructed everyone to stay inside their homes for 48 hours this Saturday and Sunday instead of demonstrating. They want to create

a 'dead city' to show the world that we all want to be rejoined with Nagorno-Karabakh, which is part of our motherland."

The disputed region, which first came under Armenian control in the first century AD was handed over to Azerbaijan jurisdiction in 1923 but still has a large majority of Christian Armenians among its population.

Another Armenian student said: "Some people here have been buying guns and grenades for 500 roubles (£500) each and they say that they will use them. The committee says that it is much better for all the Armenians to stay inside their homes and not to try to demonstrate while the soldiers are here, otherwise there will be killing on the streets."

The second student said there had been proposals for the stay-at-home strike to last as long as the soldiers remain, to be followed again by more street protests once military rule had been lifted. Asked what would take place after the weekend he replied: "Anything could happen."

Another member of the tour group which travelled to Armenia from the neighbouring republic of Azerbaijan, Miss Kristen Lemku, said: "There are troops with guns out in every place where people might gather and helicopter patrols coming in low over the city."

She said Armenians "have even

talked to us about using guns and grenades against the Russian soldiers in defence of what they call their land. It is hard to know how serious they are being. But they say they have the weapons and that, if necessary, they are willing to shed their blood."

When I called back to the state-run hotel later as arranged, another American member of the tour group, Mr Douglas Campbell, answered the telephone. Before hanging up, he said: "We have been warned about what we say concerning the events here."

Earlier yesterday *Pravda*, the official Communist Party paper, announced that it had suspended its Armenian correspondent for protesting over the party's handling of the crisis by distorting the facts in the final version of an article he had helped to write earlier in the week.

● MOSCOW: The Armenian republic's Parliament has decided to disband the nationalist Karabakh Committee and its local branches, a member of the movement said yesterday (Agence France-Presse reports). The committee played a key role in recent nationalist demonstrations.

Mr Igor Muradian also said that Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh had launched a spontaneous strike on Thursday.

Peking call for severe punishment of Tibetans

From Our Correspondent, Peking



The Panchen Lama, the Chinese-approved Buddhist leader in Tibet, listening to demands at the National People's Congress in Peking for the Tibetan rioters to be punished severely.

Soaring inflation is the most urgent problem in China's reform programme, Mr Li Peng, the Acting Prime Minister, told the opening session of a new Parliament yesterday.

In the keynote address to the 2,970 deputies of the National People's Congress gathered in the Great Hall of the People, Mr Li praised the achievements of economic reform, but acknowledged deep concern over some of its unpopular consequences.

In his first important speech since assuming office last November, Mr Li also demanded severe punishment of Tibetan nationalists who took part in anti-Chinese rioting this month in which several people were killed and security forces stormed the sacred Jokhang temple.

"The recent riot in Lhasa created by a handful of separatists was a grave incident that violated the law and undermined the unity of the motherland," he said.

Mr Li added that China respected the right to freedom of religious belief, but added: "No one should be allowed to engage under the cloak of religion in activities that impair national unity and undermine public order."

A grim-faced Panchen Lama, a leading spiritual fig-

ure in Tibet as well as a senior government official, sat in the front row on the stage facing delegates.

Mr Li, who is seen by many as a conservative, repeatedly urged caution in the pace of economic change, citing record inflation, food shortages, and corruption as unwanted results of the capitalist-style reforms which have brought unprecedented prosperity to many of China's one billion people.

"The outstanding problem in our economic and social life today is the excessive rise in commodity prices," he said. But he promised the difficulties to urban consumers would be eased through the payment of subsidies off-setting rising food prices.

Inflation is estimated at up to 20 per cent. In a recent poll, one in five city residents reported a fall in living standards.

Mr Li, who will be confirmed as Prime Minister at the meeting, admitted "certain shortcomings and mistakes in our guidance" and warned: "In the economic sphere there is still a tendency to be too impatient for quick results."

While the national leader, Mr Deng Xiaoping, sat behind him on the leader's dais

passing cigarettes, Mr Li described Sino-US ties as "generally stable". But he attacked "a handful of people" for interfering in China's internal affairs, a reference to US congressional criticism of Peking's handling of the Tibetan demonstrations.

● BANGKOK: Vietnam says 74 of its soldiers remained missing after Chinese warships attacked them in the South China Sea on March 14 and accused China of sinking three freighters, then firing on crewmen drifting in the sea.

● HONG KONG: Mr George Younger, the Defence Secretary, said yesterday that a favourable agreement had been reached between Hong Kong and London on sharing costs for the maintenance of the British garrison here. Earlier talks had broken down on February 29 (Reuters reports).

He said the agreement would prove acceptable to all concerned in Hong Kong, but declined to give details. It would be announced after being presented to the Executive Council, the Hong Kong government's policy-making body.

Under the current seven-year agreement, which expires next Thursday, the colony pays 75 per cent or about \$1.5 billion (about £100 million) a year.

Buthelezi welcomes unity plea

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, leader of the powerful Zulu-dominated Inkatha organization, yesterday warmly welcomed the appeal by Mrs Winnie Mandela for unity in South African black ranks and her offer to act as mediator between Inkatha and the outlawed African National Congress.

Mrs Mandela, wife of the jailed ANC leader Nelson Mandela, told *The Times* on Thursday that a rapprochement with Inkatha was under discussion, and that she would be prepared to meet Chief Buthelezi if she was "mandated" by the ANC to do so. She made the remarks after speaking to students at the University of the Witwatersrand, in Johannesburg, where she appealed for an end to "petty ideological differences" between rival black factions.

Chief Buthelezi said Mrs Mandela's statement had revived hope that "the real ANC will re-emerge to be the pragmatic, constructive political organization it was before it was banned (in 1960)" and that "constructive relationships could yet emerge between the real ANC and Inkatha."

Any healing of the breach between Chief Buthelezi and the ANC, of which he was a leading member in his youth, would be an ominous development for

Pretoria, which exploits division and rivalry within black ranks.

There is evidence that the South African police have actively favoured Inkatha during months of murderous feuding between Chief Buthelezi's organization and supporters of the ANC between Inkatha and the outlawed African National Congress.

Mrs Mandela is expected to renew her appeal for unity during a visit to Pietermaritzburg, the capital of Natal, today. She will be the guest speaker at the annual graduation ceremony of the Federal Theological Seminary. Chief Buthelezi disclosed that a meeting had been planned in London last October between Inkatha and the ANC.

It would have been the most important meeting between the two movements in almost a decade. The meeting fell through, according to Chief Buthelezi, because the ANC negotiators said at the last minute they could not get to London, and tried to re-schedule the meeting in Lusaka, the Zambian capital, where the ANC has its HQ.

Meanwhile, it has been disclosed that an ANC member, Mr Mazzi Masekela, was shot dead in his hospital bed last Tuesday in Maseru, capital of Lesotho, where he was recovering from an earlier

attempt on his life. The assassin reportedly fired through a window.

In a development on the white political scene, the neo-Nazi Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging, or Afrikaner Resistance Movement, was banned yesterday from holding an open-air rally in Randfontein, west of Johannesburg. Randfontein's chief magistrate refused permission under the terms of the Internal Security Act. Mr Terre Blanche secured an alternative venue for his meeting in nearby Krugersdorp.

White voters go to the polls in Randfontein next Tuesday in a parliamentary by-election where the far-right Conservative Party is expected to increase its majority over President Botha's National Party.

On Thursday rowdy supporters of Mr Terre Blanche's movement and the Conservative Party disrupted a National Party meeting in Randfontein addressed by Mr F.W. de Klerk, the Minister of National Education and leader of the party in the Transvaal.

● Bishop returns: The Bishop of Lichfield, the Rt Rev Keith Sutton, has returned to Britain from his mission to show solidarity with Archbishop Desmond Tutu, primate of the South African Anglican church, on behalf of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Runcie.

Washington worried as El Salvador poll squabbles drift towards violence

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

The United States is deeply worried about growing tensions in El Salvador and the apparent plunge in popularity of President Duarte, whose tenure of power rests on strong support from Washington.

The Salvadoran Army is sued a firm public warning to squabbling political parties after last Sunday's National Assembly election. It said threats of violence were being taken "very seriously" and hinted that it would intervene if there was trouble.

Although there is no threat of a military takeover, General Adolfo Blandon, the armed forces Chief of Staff, said that "if the situation continues, if the electoral council is not honest, the people will not take it and the democratic process will be weakened."

He said he was worried that political parties were inciting people to protest violently,

which "only helps the terrorists".

His warning came as the right-wing republican nationalist alliance, Arena, which made a stunning comeback in the election, threatened to take to the streets in protest at delays in vote-counting. The count continued yesterday in an atmosphere of suspicion, confusion and argument.

Arena leaders have called for strikes, street violence and military intervention to sort out the situation. They have accused President Duarte's Christian Democrats of fraud in the count. At stake is whether Arena will have an absolute majority in the National Assembly.

The Christian Democrats declared earlier in the week that Arena had won at least 31 of the 60 seats, but two days later they revised the figure to 29 firm seats, with the possibility of picking up one

more. They predicted that their own party would gain 24 seats and that the small National Conciliation Party would get six, creating the possibility of a congressional coalition to outvote Arena.

Nobody predicted that Arena would do so well. The result demonstrates that the party has broadened its base of support among the privileged classes, spreading its appeal to conservative peasants and slum dwellers who blame the Marxist guerrillas for destroying their livelihoods. There is a belief that Arena will be ruthless with guerrillas.

Arena was founded by Senator Roberto D'Aubuisson, now the most popular politician in El Salvador. But he is not expected to present himself as the party's presidential candidate; the US has made it clear that if he became president, Congress would almost certainly withdraw support.

Aid from Washington totals \$1.5 million (£937,500) a day — more than 80 per cent of the entire budget.

Señor D'Aubuisson has been closely connected with right-wing death squads. His ability to capture the votes of poor people is a tribute to Arena's organizational superiority and a reflection of national exhaustion and frustration after years of guerrilla warfare and worsening poverty. President Duarte has long been in a political deadlock, unable to govern effectively because of pressures from the right and left.

Arena offered a diet of hard work, patriotism, fierce anti-communism and protection of family and property — with violence if necessary. The message obviously touched a vital nerve. One of the party's most effective campaign messages emphasized the doubling of rice and bean prices.

Policies of silence or safety meet passions aroused by Israel

Israel is virtually the only foreign policy issue that matters in American politics. It is a subject so touchy, so surrounded by taboos and passionate conviction and so divisive that rational debate of America's close relationship — especially during presidential elections — is almost impossible. For most candidates, the

fully measured platitudes. All contenders are in favour of peace.

The Democrats seek refuge in criticizing the US for not playing a more active role earlier. The Republicans focus on the dangers of the Russians having any role in an international conference. No one dares take public issue with Mr Yitzhak Shamir, or suggests that US aid, running at more than \$3 billion (£1.3 billion) a year, should ever be reduced or linked to progress towards peace.

By contrast, the emotional public debate on Israel and the Palestinians daily spills across the pages of US newspapers, especially *The New York Times*, which circulates amongst the largest Jewish community outside Israel.

Pro-Israel groups rail against double standards, call on American Jews to rally behind Israel, exhort the Palestinian demonstrators and denounce pressure from the world community. Full-page advertisements by individuals trumpet their Zionist convictions, call on President Reagan to "tell to all nations sitting in peace

smugly behind their borders, protected by nuclear curtains, that to give you a lesson in humanism they need to have a bloody nerve."

The letters columns rake up the whole historic background, pick over the nuances of every resolution with masterful casuistry.

American Jews are deeply disturbed by what is going on. More than at any time in

Israel's history — more even than during the 1962 invasion of Lebanon — they have begun to question the policies in Jerusalem.

Moderate Jewish leaders have pointed to a danger of fundamentalist and hardline positions, in religion and in politics. Many Jews were especially disturbed by Mr Shamir's assertion that they had a duty to support Israel

and not to voice their concerns to the Administration: it smacked to them of an attempt to dictate where their primary loyalties as citizens should lie.

The clamour has forced Mr Shultz back into the Middle East cauldron. His new initiative is a brave and balanced attempt to get things moving. But few people in the Administration believe it has much chance of success, for it contains no sanctions.

"Pressure is not a word we ever use in relation to Israel," one official said. And asked how anything could be accomplished in the short time left to this Administration, he remarked wryly, "Do you think we are being hopelessly naive?"

There is a detectable weariness among all those involved in the effort, a determination to plod on despite the crippling criticism from all sides. "Can you think of a better plan?" one official remarked privately.

The Administration knows that little will change until the Israelis themselves find the pain from the present situation too great. Certainly there will be no pressure from Congress. The letter signed by 30 pro-Israel senators expressing "displeasure" at Mr Shamir's obduracy was unusual, but already there are retreats.

Senator Frank Lautenberg, one of the signatories, has run into angry criticism from powerful pro-Israel groups in his state. And to those running for re-election, such criticism can be devastating.

Several books have already documented the ruthlessness of AIPAC (American Israel Public Affairs Committee), a pro-Israel lobby that strikes more fear into Congress and wields greater power than any other. The notorious "targeting" of congressmen whose votes have not been in Israel's interest — either on arms sales to Arab countries or on US aid to Israel — has led to several famous casualties: former

Senator Charles Percy and former Senator James Abdnor.

The lobbies are rich and single-minded. The pro-Israel political action committees (PACs) with vague names such as "National PAC", "Washington PAC", "Citizens' Organized PAC", last year spent \$790,000 (\$430,000) helping their friends in the Senate.

This year there is another target: Senator John Chafee of Rhode Island, whose votes are deemed less than helpful. His challenger in November, Mr Richard Licht, has been given \$107,500.

The power to direct money to those who vote the right way is the main reason why the presidential candidates are so cautious. It has led to harsh criticism of the Rev Jesse Jackson, the only candidate to have supported a homeland for the Palestinians, from pro-Israel groups.

It also explains why the only foreign policy issue on which most Americans have any strong feelings is the only one that cannot be debated fully and openly in the presidential campaign.

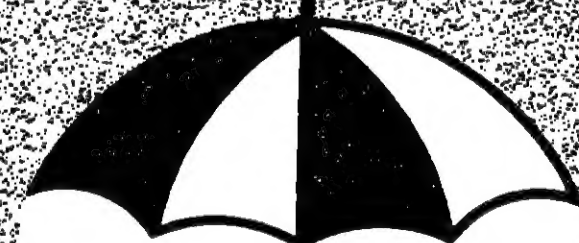
Washington View

By Michael Binyon

safest policies on the Middle East are those that outdo their rivals in support of Israel. Or silence.

But this year, the daily pictures from Gaza and the West Bank of beatings and shootings, the open disagreement between the Administration and the Israeli Prime Minister on the US peace plan, the deep split within the Israeli Government and the anguish of American Jews, have made silence a difficult course. Candidates have been pressed repeatedly to take a position. But unlike Central America, where rhetoric is given full reign, on the Middle East little is heard but care-

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15 held
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SWOOD

Drugs

Patient

Tamil killings

Blaze toll

Rail crash

Disease alert

Rhine floods

Culture shock

Socialist victory poses threat to Gibraltar deals

By Richard Wigg in Gibraltar and Michael Evans

The election victory in Gibraltar of Mr Joe Bossano, who immediately reaffirmed his total opposition to any rapprochement with Spain, is being viewed with considerable caution in London.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, sent off a telegram of congratulation, but ministers were adopting a policy of "wait and see" before testing Mr Bossano's stance on relations with Spain.

The most awkward of all Gibraltar's political leaders for both the British and Spanish Governments will take office now as the Gibraltar dependent territory's first left-wing Chief Minister after winning 58 per cent of the votes cast on Thursday. He pushed the centrist Labour Party — which had held power for 16 years — down to 29 per cent.

● Bossano win does not alter dispute over sovereignty ●

There was a 76 per cent turn-out, two points up on the 1984 election, with the Socialist Labour Party winning eight of the 15 seats in Gibraltar's House of Assembly. The Labour Party, led by Sir Joshua Hassan until his retirement last December, took all the rest. The vote demonstrated that a majority of Gibraltarians, including several prominent businessmen, tired of successive government blunders, prefer a change.

Non-domestic issues, especially relations with neighbouring Spain, emphasized by the party which now goes into Opposition, thus took second place, although Mr Bossano's highly personalized standing-up to Spain was undoubtedly among the factors making for his victory.

For the British Government, the victory of Mr

Bossano, formerly Gibraltar's trade union leader, opens up the very real possibility that all the delicate negotiations with Spain that finally led to the Brussels Agreement in 1984 could now be undone.

Under the framework of that agreement, negotiations have been developing on three fronts: opening Gibraltar's airport to Spanish airlines, including the building of a terminal on the northern side so that passengers would have access to the airport from Spain; restarting the ferry service from Gibraltar to Algeciras on the Spanish mainland; and putting an end to the long delays at the frontier.

All these issues are seen as crucial in London for improving the atmosphere over the whole question of Gibraltar's future. Mr Bossano has placed himself firmly against these developments because he fears that any improved links with Spain would set the Rock down the slippery slope towards a handover of sovereignty to Madrid.

When Mr Bossano meets with British officials, he will be reassured that the Government has no intention of changing its often repeated position that nothing would be decided about the future of the Rock against the wishes of the Gibraltarians.

Madrid indicated officially yesterday that, in its view, Mr Bossano's victory "does not alter Spain's dispute with Britain over the sovereignty of the Rock".

At a press conference, called after the counting of 17,000 votes had lasted all night, Mr Bossano emphasized that it would be an error to interpret his stand as one of enmity towards Spain.

"With our own initiatives we will be seeking ways to work so that the prosperity of our people in Gibraltar is shared with the Campo across



A jubilant Mr Joe Bossano, Gibraltar's new Chief Minister, saluting his supporters yesterday after his election victory.

the frontier which suffered most from the shutdown and has benefited least from the frontier opening," Mr Bossano said, speaking in Spanish, and referring to the Franco regime's 13-year long blockade of Gibraltar before the Socialist Government began opening the frontier in 1982. "Independent of the fact

Gibraltar people do not want to be integrated into Spain, we want to show good will towards Spaniards," he added, directing his remarks to the town council of the Campo region.

Mr Bossano sounded adamant that his government would not accept an agree-

ment for joint use of Gibraltar's airport as devised by Britain and Spain last December, but gave an indication that he might be prepared to discuss the issue with Señor Felipe González, Spain's Socialist Prime Minister.

"That is a question I would expect him to raise, not me," Mr Bossano said. "If he

invites me to Madrid, it will be an honour to go." During the election campaign Mr Bossano, formerly Gibraltar's trade union leader, rejected the December agreement as an "awful deal" for Gibraltar and pledged that, in the unlikely event of a change in attitude, his government — and he would expect, any other gov-

ernment — would consult Gibraltarians by holding a referendum.

Mr Bossano also made it plain after victory that he would not attend the regular top-level Anglo-Spanish meetings intended to seek ways of collaborating and as a forum for discussing Spain's sovereignty claim.

He has put on ice previous talk of independence for Gibraltar, saying that during his four years of office he does not want to seek any constitutional changes with Britain. But he refuses to acknowledge anyone's right to discuss the future of the Rock except the Gibraltarians.

The Bossano victory comes at the beginning of a year of exceptional importance in Anglo-Spanish relations, with official visits for the first time by the British Prime Minister and the Queen to Madrid.

The Queen is due next October to return the state visit by King Juan Carlos to London in April 1986. Then, the Spanish monarch twice publicly expressed Spain's sovereignty claim to Gibraltar. Mrs Thatcher is expected to visit Señor González in Madrid in September.

London is the only European Community capital the Spanish Prime Minister has not visited since taking office in 1982 and his attitude to the Gibraltar problem undoubtedly lies behind that omission.

Talking with Mr Bossano on Spanish radio on election night, Señor Fernando Morán, the former Foreign Minister who concluded the Brussels Agreement with Sir Geoffrey Howe, recommended a frank dialogue in spite of their disagreement.

Mr Bossano visited Madrid on his single official visit to Spain during the past five years but confessed that the only figure he knows is the Spanish Socialist Party's top foreign affairs expert. Both

Señor González and Señor Alfonso Guerra, his deputy whom the Prime Minister often uses as a trouble-shooter, are Andalusians — from the region bordering Gibraltar — and yet neither has bothered to tackle Mr Bossano ever at the personal level.

The gesture of an invitation by Madrid would seem now appropriate to probe just what identity of approach as pragmatic Socialists Señor González and Mr Bossano might be able to find.

Madrid's legalistic stance — that it will only discuss Gibraltar with the British Government — ignores the Gibraltarians' emerging national feelings or, as Señor Morán put it, the fact of their "political weight", whatever the legal niceties.

● We want to show good will towards the Spaniards ●

The visits by the Queen and Mrs Thatcher in the autumn make it likely that the Spanish authorities will seek to refrain from serious negative reaction for the present, waiting perhaps to see how Mr Bossano mellowed in office, exactly as the Spanish Socialists themselves have done.

Next autumn there will arise the sensitive problem of funding the continued payment of pensions to more than 4,500 elderly Spaniards, mostly from La Línea, who worked in Gibraltar before the Franco regime introduced the blockade.

Mr Bossano refused yesterday to contemplate "paying a single penny" when the three-year provisional fundings under the agreement between the British and Gibraltar governments "runs dry" in about October.

15 held in Bonn 'spies' swoop

Bonn — West German authorities have arrested 15 people suspected of spying for East Germany, according to sources close to the security services yesterday (Our Foreign Staff writes). One was reportedly an Iranian-German doctor from Aachen.

The arrests were probably linked to the earlier arrest on similar charges of a West German government secretary, Elke Falk, aged 40. She is suspected of giving East Germany a wide range of information on foreign policy and is said by security sources to have been co-operative in their investigations.

Drugs seized

Madrid (Reuter) — Police seized 900 lb of cocaine with an estimated street value of £27 million from a warehouse near Madrid and arrested 10 people.

Patient virtue

Warsaw (AFP) — After a six-year struggle with the Polish authorities, about 20 nuns from various countries belonging to Mother Teresa's Sisters of Charity have been allowed to set up a hospice in Warsaw to look after the many down-and-outs.

Tamil killings

Colombo (AP) — Tamil rebels killed two farmers from a northern Sri Lankan village and left notes on their bodies claiming that the men had spied for the Indian peace-keeping force.

Blaze toll

Seoul (AP) — A pre-dawn fire killed 19 sleeping women factory workers in a dormitory on the outskirts of Seoul. Most died after inhaling toxic fumes from rolls of fabric.

Rail crash

Peking (Reuter) — Eleven Japanese and one Chinese were killed when two passenger trains collided near Shanghai. More than 40 people were hurt.

Disease alert

Aswan (Reuter) — Doctors are inoculating all 150,000 people of this popular Egyptian resort after three Sudanese visitors were found to have meningitis.

Rhine floods

Cologne (Reuter) — Shipping was banned from parts of the Rhine for the second time this month because of the worst spring flooding for years.

Culture shock

Bonn (Reuter) — A Goethe Institute will be established as the first foreign cultural centre in Peking under a Chinese-West German agreement, the Foreign Ministry said.

Afghanistan peace negotiations

New moves may avert collapse of talks

From Michael Hamlyn, Geneva

Two big developments at the Afghanistan peace talks yesterday brought new hope of averting a widely forecast break-up.

The first was a move by the mediation team under Señor Diego Cordovez to encourage the continuation of negotiations on the so-called "symmetry" issue. The second was a further softening of the Pakistani line on the question of an interim government for the period of the withdrawal.

Yesterday, with a look of anger at commentators who had forecast the collapse of his peace initiative, Señor Cordovez announced that the talks would continue on Monday.

If these two issues can be settled, nothing will stand between the negotiating teams and the successful conclusion of the accords except the border question, raised last week by Afghanistan, which is expected to be solved once the momentum towards a signing is regained.

Delegation members here

have confirmed that Señor Cordovez has asked both the Americans and the Russians to send high level negotiators to Geneva to resume the talks that failed to reach a positive result between Mr George Shultz and Mr Edward Shevardnadze. Señor Cordovez, in effect, cryptically denied that he had made any such request, saying that reports "would hurt a number of people".

A member of the US mission said yesterday: "The US is ready to resume dialogue with the Soviet Union, and as we have said, our proposal remains on the table."

The proposal was outlined by Mr Shultz in his press statement after the Washington talks. As described by him, they represent a considerable diminution of the hard line that the Americans were pressing earlier. Before the Shultz-Shevardnadze talks, the Americans were talking of requiring an indefinite moratorium on the arms supply to Kabul before they would guar-

antee the Geneva accords. But the new proposal outlined by Mr Shultz said that the arms supply should cease during the period of the withdrawal, "and perhaps three months thereafter, and then potentially extended".

Although this idea was turned down by Mr Shevardnadze, there is clearly sufficient flexibility in the American line to make further talks worthwhile.

There was speculation yesterday that the US would be represented at such talks by Mr Michael Armacost, the deputy secretary of state who

has been involved in the peace talks, and the Russians by Mr Yuri Vorontsov, the deputy foreign minister.

In any case Mr Robert Peck, the US deputy assistant secretary of state, who has been in Geneva for consultations during the month-long round of talks, will still be present, as will his opposite number, Mr Nikolai Kozirev, the Soviet ambassador-at-large.

Mr Zain Noorani, the Pakistani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, as he entered the Palais des Nations for yesterday's session, approved the plans for taking up the symmetry issue again, saying that it would take a little time to put such negotiations together since each side would need to be briefed and Mr Shevardnadze still had not returned to Moscow.

Mr Noorani also indicated that his Government was now taking a softer line on the interim government at the same time.

He said, in answer to a

question from *The Times*, that he would sign the Geneva instruments "if a basic understanding is reached that efforts for the formation of a transitional government would continue even after the signing".

That was nothing new — the problem has been to guarantee that such efforts would indeed continue, but yesterday Mr Noorani said: "There was in the press statements issued in Washington some sort of indication."

He was clearly referring to a statement by Mr Shultz, who said in Washington: "We welcome the development through which Mr Cordovez will, in a personal capacity, be ready to serve as a mediator among the contending Afghan parties."

There was also a briefing by an unnamed senior Washington official, who said that the Cordovez mediation among the Afghans had now received the approval of the Russians, who had been against the idea.

Moving thousands of tons of seed grain, food and agricultural equipment through Pakistan into Afghanistan will be particularly difficult.

Near Torghondi the local Mujahidin commander points out that during the war the Russians had dropped mines on the terraced fields and on the nearby wooded hillsides where much of the timber would be cut for rebuilding. These would have to be cleared, he said. He added that families would face acute economic problems in the early years but, he said: "If they are sure that it is peace, they will move soon to their country. They would rather stay here in a tent than live in buildings in Pakistan."

Aid groups fear mass return home of refugees

From Edward Gorman Torghondi, Pakhtia Province, Afghanistan

In the distance, the village of Torghondi looked much like any Afghan village: the earth-brown, mud-and-timber houses nestled snugly into the folds of the ravine set against the magnificent snow-capped peaks of the Safed Koh range.

It was only when we got up close that we realized that Torghondi — like its four sister villages strung out on the plain — was deserted.

The houses, which had looked so welcoming from the ridge, were empty, broken shells; the walls and roofs either blown in by bombing or collapsed and rotting with neglect.

Torghondi, once home to 150 families, is one of thousands of

Afghan villages destroyed as part of the Soviet scorched-earth policy. Senior aid officials, long accustomed to channelling their efforts into helping refugees in Pakistan, are, since the Russian decision to withdraw, focusing for the first time on villages like Torghondi and the estimated seven million people who have fled from them and who are now contemplating a return.

About three million refugees in Pakistan, two million in Iran, and two million so-called "internal refugees" mostly living in Kabul, together constitute the world's biggest refugee population.

Mr Peter Rees, field director of the British charity, Afghanistan Aid, said it would take nine months just to prepare a co-ordinated strategy

among private voluntary organizations and the major international donors.

He believes the emergency will last for up to 10 years after the first refugees return. No one knows at what point and in what numbers the Afghans will decide to move. Recent surveys in Pakistan suggest that whole camps — in some cases more than 30,000 people — will decide to go en masse.

Mr Rees says, in terms of providing food, transport, seed, temporary shelter, cash, and draught animals, the aid community could cope with, at most, 20 per cent of the refugee population moving back in the first year.

"People will say to themselves, 'I've been here eight years and I'm going and I don't care if there is no food to

feed me,' so we are relying on the innate common sense of the Afghan farmer," said Mr Rees.

Moving thousands of tons of seed grain, food and agricultural equipment through Pakistan into Afghanistan will be particularly difficult.

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"People will say to themselves, 'I've been here eight years and I'm going and I don't care if there is no food to

Price tags outrage art dealers

From Charles Bremner, New York

For Mr Angelo Aponte, New York's aggressive new consumer watchdog, there is no difference between a Picasso and a cheese sandwich: the price must be clearly displayed.

Armed with this philosophy, Mr Aponte, Commissioner of Consumer Affairs, has sent his inspectors into the Manhattan art world and unleashed a storm of indignation all the way from the avant-garde basements of the East Village to the luxurious salons of Madison Avenue.

Posting prices, says the art world, is a vulgar intrusion into the confidentiality of the age-old process under which paintings pass from creator to collector. "An art gallery is different in function and spirit from a butcher's shop," wrote Hilton Kramer, the editor of an art magazine, who delivered an impassioned attack on Mr Aponte this week.

Private galleries "provide

the public with a free and immensely varied cultural and educational service," said Mr Kramer. "Imagine how you would feel if, when you go to hear an opera or a string quartet, you found the fees of the musicians conspicuously displayed in the programme."

Mr Aponte thinks otherwise. He decided to enforce a 1971 city law requiring the display of prices on all retail items because "price manipulation" was endemic in the art world, he said.

The city cleaned up the auction business a few years earlier, but the Consumer Affairs Department says galleries prey on ignorant customers and setting prices according to the cut of their clothes. The middle class are "entitled to know what their purchases will buy them without being subject to the vagaries of mystery, theatre and snobbery," Mr Aponte said.

Of 58 galleries inspected at

random since the law was enforced on March 1, 17 were presented for failure to display prices.

Some dealers have complained of unfair tactics, saying that the inspectors were so disreputable in appearance that they caused alarm.

"I thought they were two punks out to hit a major art gallery," one print dealer complained to *The Wall Street Journal*. "They gave me the creeps. They told the girls: 'Watch these guys closely and don't give them any information.'"

The gist of the dealers' outrage is that price tags will attract thieves and lay bare the mystique by which artists and collectors acquire and safeguard their reputations.

"This is just not the way the business works," said one Madison Avenue gallery manager, who would not allow his name to be used. "It's a very private process. You don't want everyone to go around

gossiping about much you paid for a painting."

Dealers questioned by *The Times* asked for their criticism to remain anonymous. Their champion, Mr Kramer, who edits the *New Criterion*, said: "The rating will contribute nothing to the stabilization of art prices, but it will add yet more fuel to the wave of titillation and financial voyeurism that is already flourishing."

Underlying the disgust in the art world is a feeling that the city bureaucracy is trying to interfere for other reasons. "If... people wish to purchase expensive opera tickets or drive around town in a Jaguar, it is none of Mr Aponte's business," said Mr Kramer.

Miss Miriam Garvon, a member of Mr Aponte's staff, dismissed Mr Kramer's view. "We just want to show people how much these things cost. Having a price fixed isn't going to disturb someone's aesthetic experience."

Sarney wins constitutional fight for strong executive

From Mac Margolis, Rio de Janeiro

After 13 months of caustic debate and repeated confrontation between the legislature and the executive, the Brazilian Constituent Assembly has handed President Sarney his most significant political victory in three embattled years of government.

In a surprising decision that is expected to strengthen the President's hand, the legislators who are crafting the country's new constitution voted by a wide margin to uphold the country's presidential system of government and, by a narrower count, to create a five-year mandate for future Presidents. The Constituent Assembly voted 344 to 212, with only three abstentions, to approve the amendment that gives sweeping powers to the chief executive.

The "presidentialists" predicted a move to establish a

parliamentary form of government under which future Presidents would have to divide their authority with a powerful Prime Minister.

Observers attribute the victory to intensive 11th-hour lobbying by Senator Sarney and the military. They argued that the country's young democracy, with its weak party structure, was not prepared for the rigours of a parliamentary system.

"The Government engaged in an unabashed vote-by-vote negotiation. This victory was won in the last three or four days," said Senator Walder de Góes, a political scientist.

Many congressmen denounced the vote as a step backward for democracy, and the influential São Paulo senator, Senator Fernando Henrique Cardoso, led a bloc of legislators to break from the

country's leading Brazilian Democratic Movement party, for "abandoning its commitment to the people". The victory may give the President the political muscle to tackle soaring inflation, about 18 per cent a month, and negotiate the \$115 billion (£60 billion) foreign debt.

"The banks are worried about committing to a 20-year programme to refinance the debt without some sort of solid economic programme," said a senior official at European Bank. "The President may now feel he's in a position to take unpopular measures."

But the Constituent Assembly has still to vote on the length of Senator Sarney's own mandate. Polls show overwhelming public support for cutting the mandate to four years and holding elections as soon as November.

TIMES DIARY SIMON BARNES

Hong Kong

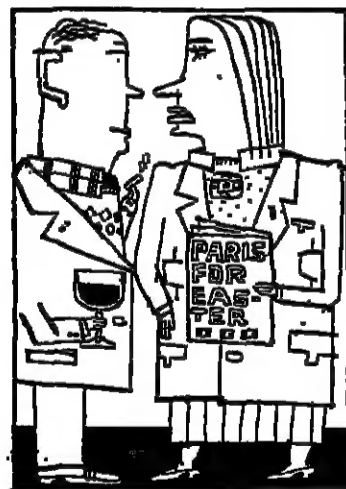
The Hong Kong rugby sevens tournament has become an institution — but rather an ambiguous one. On one hand, the event is a marvellous example of Hong Kong flair, and much cherished here, as you expect from the event's full title, the Cathay Pacific Hongkong Bank Invitation Sevens. On the other, it can be seen as a hideous example of expat grossness. The basic good-heartedness of the event was seriously close to being lost as a hysterical atmosphere overcame the ground. One streaker is often good evidence that an event is getting out of hand, and last year at the sevens there were four, one of them perhaps the ugliest person ever created. The mass drunkenness — with a number of tipplers obviously under-age — gave the whole event an edgy feel. A lengthy pitch invasion was close to being the last straw.

So the Hong Kong RFU is doing their damndest to restore the event's niceness. They are beefing up the number of stewards and police, and several of the players have been involved in a spot of missionary work. They are going on a series of school visits, telling the pupils to be good chaps and not to get plastered and run on the pitch. The whole event might just be on the verge of getting too big for its own good. It is on trial this weekend.

The Hong Kong sevens is a great *Gwelo* shindig — *Gwelo* means ghost person, and the Cantonese term for a European. To the colony's five million Cantonese, rugby is a complete mystery. The Chinese have never been encouraged to play the game in Hong Kong, though elsewhere they have taken to it: the sevens include a team from Taiwan, Kuang-Hua Taipei, and the Singapore team will have four Chinese. But this will probably be the total Chinese population in the stadium: the Hong Kong Chinese will have more important things to do today, like racing at Happy Valley. This is a sport the Hong Kong Chinese love to distraction, and every autumn when the racing season starts the Hang Seng Index tumbles as the intrepid stock market punters change their gambling mean. There are eight races today, with such auspiciously named beasts as Constant Win, Money Maker, Money Flavour and Silver Abacus duelling for mastery. On Wednesday, one of the runners was bizarrely named *Mediocre*. It came second. It must be hard to shout "Come on Mediocre."

Far from home I might be, but mere distance will not prevent me from giving you the by now statutory Eddie Edwards story. Yes, the Eagle will be the star attraction at the Colne Dynamos annual "Sportsman Dinner". The Dynamos are in the Bass North West Counties League, and play the second leg of their FA Vase semi-final today. Still, clearly they are no Eddie Edwards team: the dinner will be held on April 11, and already the club has sold just under 400 tickets at £25 each. Last year they had Bobby Robson, but his achievements cannot compare with Eddie's. The Dynamos' manager, Graham White, said: "The interest in Edwards is clearly of a different kind, but in his own way he is just as big an attraction."

BARRY FANTONI



"We only planned to go P&O to avoid the air controllers' work-to-rule"

The extraordinary row between the German soccer team, FC Homburg, and the West German Football Federation shows no sign of abating. Homburg saw an end to their financial troubles when they acquired a splendid shirt sponsorship — but the federation threw up its hands in horror at the idea. For the sponsor's product is a brand of contraceptive. This, the federation decided, was "an offence to public morals," and promptly banned the club from sporting the hated name on shirts or on hoardings around the ground. But Homburg needed the money rather badly: so they went ahead and wore shirts bearing the banned name, in a league match against Nuremberg. They await the reaction of the federation with some interest.

Really, I wonder, is anyone in sport as obnoxious as the modern tennis superstar? Hana Mandlikova has been in trouble for her attempt to wallop a line judge with a tennis ball: her reaction after she had received a penalty point for throwing her racket. Her comment afterwards had all the charm one would expect from today's tennis stars: "I am not sorry. It's unbelievable she made that call. It was a crucial point and I couldn't get it out of my mind." The only thing the modern tennis player seems to feel guilty about is losing tennis matches — though British girls are different. They feel guilty if they win, of course.

My own perennial favourite for the Hong Kong sevens are Fiji. George Simkin, a New Zealander and the former technical adviser to the Fijian RFU, said: "Their enthusiasm is incredible. It's not unusual for a club not to own a rugby ball and be forced to practise with a coconut." Fiji play sumptuous, free-flowing rugby and sevens is their natural game. In Fiji, local sevens tournaments often attract 150 teams. It is a rugby-mad nation that believes above all that rugby is a game for flair and imagination. That is not always the case in England.

It's all over. Mr Ron Todd of the TGWU has callously thrown overboard up to 1,000 jobs in Dundee. Furthermore, he has deprived Scotland of thousands of consequential jobs in commercial and service industries in Perthshire and beyond and diverted other future investment for Scotland.

But most of all he has deprived not only Scotland but Great Britain of the jewel in the crown of the international motor car industry, for the Ford plant which will now go to another European country is no ordinary component outfit: it will build the electronic engines of the future.

Like some arrogant Roman emperor, Todd has turned his thumbs down on Dundee and Gavin Laird, leader of the engineering workers' union, to save 12 unions at Dagenham. He should ponder whether, in the process of indulging his perceived view of the interests of the union movement generally, he has not turned his thumbs down on his beloved unions at Dagenham as well.

But Todd's attitude, however apparently inhuman and unpatriotic, is as predictable as the instinct of a prehensile ape, so perhaps we may comprehend, if in no way forgive, his crass

short-sightedness. But not so Neil Kinnock's, which at first sight seems incomprehensible, as does the silence of Labour MPs generally, particularly those from Scotland.

For five long months when Todd's Luddite attitude was withholding this great industrial prize from the grasp of Scotland's most stricken city, the leader of the Opposition, who is sponsored by the blessed Mr Todd's TGWU, said nothing and did nothing. Nor did any of the many other TGWU-sponsored Labour MPs — Scottish, English or Welsh — or any of the 50 Scottish Labour members.

Worse than that: two weeks ago Mr Kinnock went to Perth in my constituency, at the eastern end of which the Ford plant was to be built, to address the Scottish Labour Party conference. But neither he, nor any of the eight TGWU-sponsored Scottish Labour MPs nor any of the assembled autocrats of the

TGWU said one word or did one thing to avert the impending calamity.

They made not one attempt to obtain Todd's agreement, however grudging and belated, to allow Ford to go ahead with a single-union agreement and, most important of all, not to black its products once it did.

Indeed, throughout the entire conference the matter was so taboo that it was forbidden to be debated, and was not debated. If Todd played the role of Caesar, Kinnock played the role of Pontius Pilate, and the Scottish Labour Party played the part of a jeering crowd in the crucifixion of the city of Dundee.

One might charitably have given Messrs Todd and Kinnock the reluctant benefit of a fanciable doubt that Ford were bluffing all along and might succumb to Todd's bullying. But even after Ford had signed the writ of execution last week, indeed even when Todd put two

fingers to the TUC vote to recognize the single-union agreement by voting to black Ford's production for all time coming, Kinnock and the Labour Party sat dumb and did nothing and the Scottish Labour Party resorted to a whimpering attempt to blame Malcolm Rifkind, Secretary of State for Scotland, whose vital enthusiasm — along with Gavin Laird's — had won the prize of Ford for Dundee against the most passionate competition from all over Britain and Europe in the first place.

So here was the leader of the Opposition, who had fought two elections on the issue of unemployment and industrial decline — and as a result last year had a triumphant election success in Scotland — who was unwilling, unable and evidently disinclined to persuade his sponsor not to sabotage the achievement of major industrial development and employment in Dundee. Moreover, by

remaining so determinedly silent, he was publicly symbolizing the Labour movement for all foreseeable time as the enemy of employment and the enemy of Scotland, which is temporarily his strongest electoral base.

How, everybody keeps asking me, could Kinnock so wilfully commit his Scots constituents to inevitable death at the hands of the electorate, for the Scots have long and bitter memories and they will never forgive Labour for the lynching of Dundee.

The answer seems to me to confound and override even Todd's pig-headedness. Kinnock is not only sponsored as an MP by Mr Todd: he is also leader of the Labour Party by courtesy of Mr Todd's 1.25 million block vote. If anyone was surprised by Mr Benn's challenge to his leadership it certainly wasn't Mr Kinnock.

Knowing, or genuinely fearing, a challenge to his feeble and feckless leadership from whence

so ever it came was one man whose favour Kinnock dare not flout, whose actions he dare not challenge and whose insensitivity towards industrial workers he dare not oppose, and that man is Mr Todd with a block vote which he tips in Kinnock's direction. So Kinnock sat gagged and impotent, grinning and futile, like a kidnap victim with a gun at his back.

By not speaking against Ford's TGWU sand-bagger, he may have kept his lucrative job as leader of the Opposition, but the price he has paid to keep that job is to sacrifice the jobs of a thousand Scottish families and many other families throughout the nation as well.

I say "may" have kept his lucrative job because Mr Todd may come to recall that while Mr Kinnock did not condemn his action he did not defend it either, and he might just reckon the boy's gone soft and gun him down too.

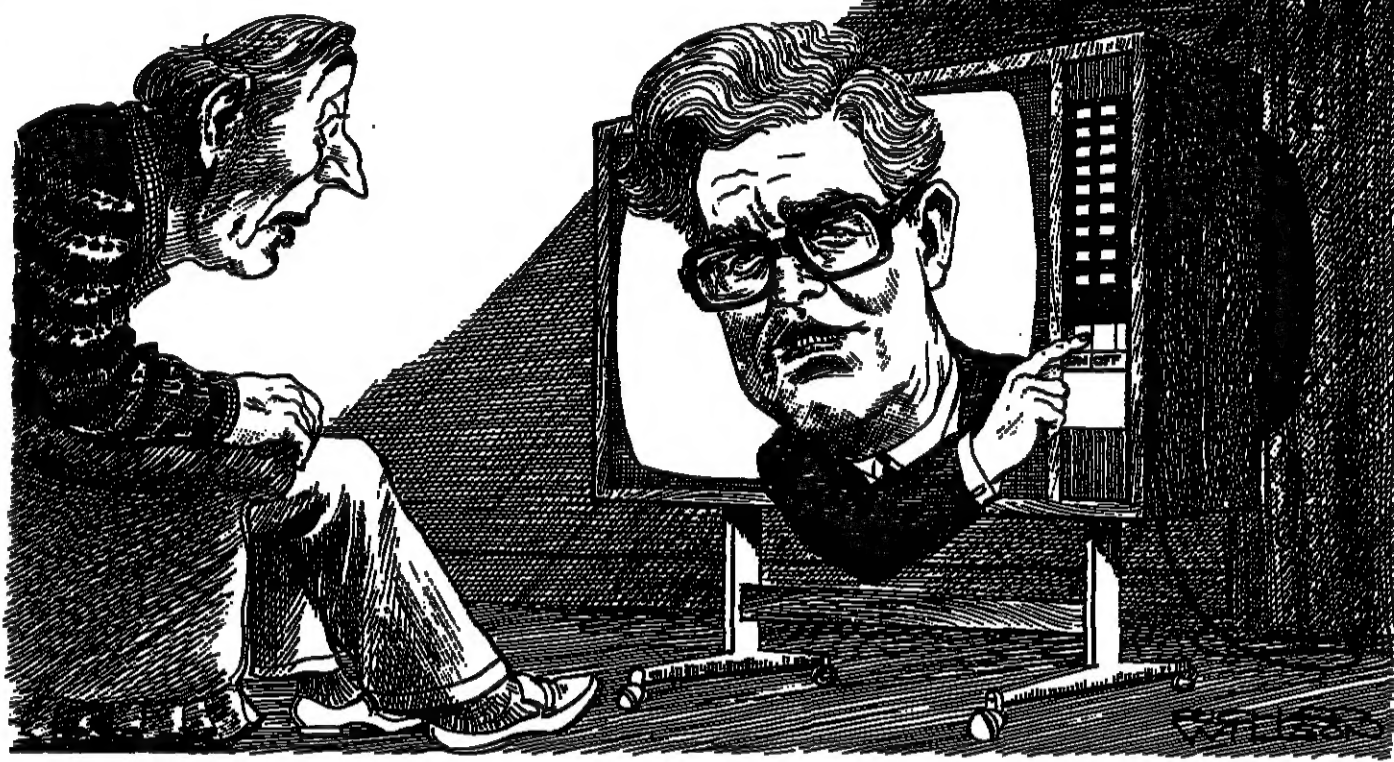
One thing is certain. However long Mr Todd tolerates Mr Kinnock by paying out his members' cheques that helped secure him his job, the only job Mr Kinnock will ever have in Parliament will be leader of the Opposition. The author is Conservative MP for Perth and Kinross.

Dundee: Nicholas Fairbairn on Labour's self-inflicted wound

Kinnock's craven silence

James Curran

Thatcherism switched off



Within the next 18 months, the British public will have more English language TV channels than national daily papers to choose from. The technology also now exists for a cheap-proof system allowing people to pay directly for what they view in much the same way that they subscribe to a newspaper or magazine. The way is thus open for a Conservative administration to remodel TV on the same lines as the press: private enterprise, competitive and unregulated.

So far, the Home Secretary, Douglas Hurd, shows no signs of wanting to move in this direction. The ground is not being prepared for breaking up the BBC into independent, separately financed companies; ITV is not about to be liberated from the IBA's interventionist regulation (although this may change).

The only step the Government has taken so far to weaken the TV duopoly is to call on the BBC and ITV to commission 25 per cent of their programmes from independent production companies. The evidence to date suggests that even this reform will be largely frustrated by the proliferation of "house" companies which are independent only in name.

The Government's policy towards the new TV industries also reveals few traces of its free market convictions. Cable TV in Britain is subject to numerous obligations from which its counterpart in the US is free. British-based satellite television is being forced into a public service mould: its remit is to inform as well as entertain, display good taste, and be accurate and balanced in its news coverage.

The Government is also taking active steps to bring to heel commercial consortia operating from countries such as Luxembourg which will be transmitting TV programmes to Britain. Through the Council of Europe Convention, it is seeking to impose "programme standards" on satellite relayed programmes. These moves towards regula-

tion are partly inspired by the belief that unfettered competition will drive down programme standards and narrow consumer choice. This is essentially anti-market view is being reinforced by a growing desire within the Tory party to prevent increasing displays of violence and indecency on television which, it is widely believed, unbridled competition would promote.

This concern has already given rise to the introduction of extensive censorship of videos. It will find new expression in the establishment of a Government-appointed Broadcasting Standards Council, whose role will be to put pressure on the broadcasting authorities to impose stricter guidelines on sex and violence. If it is largely ignored, like the Press Council, ministerial statements indicate that it may well be given teeth.

Even when the Government appears to be bowing to commercial pressures, things are not

quite what they seem. Thus, the Government's recent announcement that three new commercial radio channels are to be created and handed over to the highest bidders appears, on the face of it, to be an unprecedented exercise in "market democracy". But in reality, the auction will be rigged because only cheques engraved with a picture of Lord Reith will be accepted.

To be eligible to take part, bidders must propose plans for "a diverse programme service calculated to appeal to a variety of tastes and interests and not limited to a single format". This is a remarkable injunction. It harks back to the days of confident, cultural leadership before competition propelled the BBC to introduce Radio One with its single format of almost continuous pop music. The Government's conflict over the competing claims of

paternalism and the free market is mirrored within the ranks of the Opposition. One consequence of the regionalist debate that is taking place within the Labour Party is that its commitment to traditional public service broadcasting is being openly challenged by advocates of the "radical market".

One small but influential lobby now argues that a large public corporation like the BBC has little to do with a contemporary conception of socialism. The BBC is too closely linked to the state, the argument runs. It is also unresponsive to public demands, giving extensive radio airtime to "worthwhile" middle-class minority interests but tending to neglect those of working-class minorities, particularly in the area of music.

Their solution is to maximize the number of competing radio outlets with the minimum of public regulation. Intervention would take the form not of conventional authorities regulat-

ing programme content but of enterprise boards which would assist the weak and under-resourced to enter the market and compete.

In the style of born-again converts, they also propose tough anti-monopoly measures which would preserve competition and consumer choice. The Conservatives, they argue, cannot be trusted to maintain the purity of the market because they have too cosy a relationship with powerful media conglomerates.

Left-wing blueprints have also been advanced for the complete reorganization of television, including the break-up of the BBC. They are mostly founded on the assumption that a rapid expansion of cable TV stations, linked to the modernization of telecommunications, would create the basis for a genuinely "open", competitive system in which TV companies would have greater opportunities to screen their programmes and

consumers would have a much wider choice.

So far their arguments have failed to convince traditionalists within the Labour Party who are committed to defending the existing broadcasting system. Labour traditionalists differ from their counterparts within the Conservative Party only in two significant ways.

They want an independent review body to advise the Government about appointments to the BBC board of governors and other broadcasting authorities as a way of increasing the distance between broadcasting and the state. They also advocate, unlike most Conservatives, a European agreement that will limit the amount of low-cost American programmes that can be transmitted by satellite. This would mean rebuilding the protectionist wall that currently "defends" British public service broadcasting: both the BBC and the IBA limit TV programmes made outside the European Community to 40 per cent of transmission time.

In reality, both the Conservative and Labour parties are split over broadcasting. There are points of affinity between Labour's libertarian left and the new right of the Conservative Party. But both are outnumbered by the traditionalists in their parties, who fear that "the best broadcasting system in the world" could be undermined by too many changes, and who remain convinced that public regulation is needed to ensure that there are still quality programmes, not just wall-to-wall *Dallas*, to choose from.

It is this view, one of the few surviving elements of the old political consensus, which is likely to shape the future of British broadcasting.

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The third edition of James Curran's book, *Power Without Responsibility: The Press and Broadcasting in Britain* (with Jean Seaton) has just been published by Routledge (£8.95).

Commentary • MICHAEL KINSLEY

Off the hook craftily

Washington
Not so long ago, American conservatives used to fret that the US justice system was "soft on crime". They were outraged at the ability of clever lawyers to "get criminals off on technicalities". Ed Meese, the Attorney General, famously remarked: "You don't have many suspects who are innocent. That's contradictory." The criminal trails of people in and around the Reagan administration have changed all that.

Meese himself, under suspicion of a variety of criminal offences, has hired the attorney Nathan Lewin, one of America's most prominent specialists in getting criminals off on technicalities. Lewin complained recently in *The New York Times* that Meese has been denied the presumption of innocence because people are reaching their own conclusions without waiting for any indictment.

This is touching, but confused. Justice requires the judge and jury to presume a person is innocent unless and until convicted. It also requires them to suspend their disbelief and presume that a lawyer like Lewin sincerely believes his client is as innocent as a newborn lamb. We can examine the evidence and draw our own conclusions.

To take another example, there is almost no dispute at all about the facts in the 101-page indictment filed last week against four members of the Iran-Contra brigade: Oliver North, John Poindexter, Albert Hakim and Richard Secord. They are entitled to a trial, of course, and they may well get off. But innocence is the least of the reasons the American justice system chooses not to convict

people. In the hands of a top-price lawyer, American justice offers something better than a fair trial: an unfair trial.

President Reagan has already exonerated Robert McFarlane, his former National Security Adviser, who last week, in Reagan's words, "pleaded guilty to not telling Congress everything it wanted to know" — adding: "I've done that myself." Yes, that's what he pleaded guilty to, but that is not what he did, which was to lie. Knowing about North's activities, McFarlane told the House Intelligence Committee that he had "thoroughly examined... all matters which in any remote fashion could bear upon these charges" and could "state with deep personal conviction" that no one on his staff had ever solicited funds or support for the Contras.

However much the Iran-Contra Four may have stolen, cheated and lied, they might get off simply on their lawyers' plea that the special prosecutor in the case was unconstitutionally appointed. They have another weapon in the immunity granted for their testimony at last summer's congressional hearings. As a result, prosecutors have had to go to almost comic lengths, such as not reading the newspapers, to avoid acquiring information. Even so, the defence will argue that every bit of evidence is tainted.

The situation is just like that caused by the Supreme Court's "exclusionary rule" widely loathed by conservatives, which forbids the use of evidence derived from an illegal search. Valuable evidence is banned, for reasons having nothing to do with guilt or innocence, and the guilty sometimes get off.

North is threatening to subpoena Reagan and Vice-President Bush, partly in the expectation that they will assert executive privilege and refuse to testify. This would enable his lawyers to assert that he has been denied information vital for his defence. Maybe this will work. But it won't make him innocent.

Another way the guilty sometimes get off is through prosecutorial ineptitude. Ineptitude is the kindest interpretation of the way Meese gave North and Poindexter time to destroy piles of evidence after they knew the Justice Department was on to them. We shall never know what was in those documents, but we can make the obvious inference: you don't hold a shredding party if there's nothing to hide.

Besides the special advantages of their particular case, the Iran-Contra defendants will enjoy the usual lean-over-backward protections of American justice: the requirement of proof beyond a reasonable doubt and the built-in wild card of a jury that must convict unanimously.

Don't get me wrong. The four defendants are entitled to a trial every bit as unfair as they can afford. That's the American way. What they are not entitled to is a "Get Out of Jail Free" card in the public mind. We have the evidence — including evidence the jury will never hear — and neither law nor logic says we cannot convict.

This newfound conservative passion for the rights of criminals could lead down all sorts of promising avenues of social progress. Next, perhaps, they will have the opportunity to take up prison reform.

The author is editor of *New Republic*.

SCIENCE REPORT

Tree testimony

A new analysis of a tree-ring archive stretching back more than 7,000 years dates the cataclysmic volcanic eruption of Santorini in the Aegean at precisely 1628 BC. M.G.L. Baillie and M.A.R. Munro at Queen's University, Belfast, describe their estimate in this week's *Nature*.

The date of the eruption is especially important because of suggestions that it may have been a factor in ending the Minoan civilization. The agreement between the new tree-ring date and others recently obtained by other means suggests that the date is being narrowed down.

Santorini, an island 60 miles north of Crete, owes its still-like shape to a Bronze Age volcano that deposited on it a layer of pumice and ash 22ft thick, expelling several villages and ejecting up to 1,000 billion cubic feet of rock.

The remnant of the exploded volcano is a hole 35 sq miles and 1,000ft deep. The eruption, reckoned to be one of the most violent of the past few thousand years — on a par with the Krakatoa eruption of 1883 — would have caused a tidal wave that may have damaged Minoan Crete.

The volcanic ash and other ejecta scattered across the globe also had lasting effects on the environment. The dating of the event by tree-rings is possible because the sudden injection of dust into the atmosphere reduced the amount of sunlight, in turn reducing plant growth. This shows in tree-ring records as



the presence of narrower rings than usual.

Fallout of acidic ash can also be measured in ice cores, laminated natural calendars in glaciated areas such as Greenland and Antarctica, where ice is laid down in a regular annual rhythm.

Both tree-rings and ice cores have already been used to pinpoint the date of the Santorini eruption. Danish workers writing in *Nature* last year estimated 1645 BC, plus or minus seven years, based on acid fallout concentrations in the ice of southern Greenland. Earlier estimates based on ice core work and cultural correlations varied from between 1390-1500 BC.

A research group in Arizona had previously reported an estimate of between 1628 BC and 1626 BC, drawing connections between frost damage in bristlecone pines and the at-

mospheric effects of volcanic dust. Bristlecone pines, native to the western United States, jointly hold the record for longevity in the natural world: trees that were saplings at the time of the Santorini eruption are still alive today.

On that basis, researchers in the US have compiled an absolute chronology stretching back continuously for 8,681 years. This was augmented in 1984 by a 7,272-year chronology for northern Europe based on the long-lived and hardy bog oak of Ulster.

Although bog oaks do not live as long as bristlecone pines, the Ulster chronology is based on overlapping records of rings from trees of different periods and lifespans. Records from scraps of fossil wood, old trees and building timbers can be compared and matched with the database.

Different bog oaks in Northern Ireland show significant patterns of ring narrowing that correlate with volcanic eruptions. A first survey by Baillie and Munro of 22 ring patterns from the decade of the 1620s BC showed that some trees had unusually narrow rings. Other records from the same decade showed anomalously little springtime wood growth.

Poor climate usually affects only summertime growth in bog oaks. Conditions bad enough to affect spring growth as well as so rare that their concurrence in several contemporaneous records cannot be coincidence.

HENRY GEE



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A SHIFT IN TIME

British Summer Time restarts tonight, adjusting the diurnal rhythm of the nation to take advantage of long evenings and early dawns. Meanwhile in the Home Office, the question is posed: should British clocks ever go back? Should Greenwich Mean Time be slanted to the same sideline of history as that other Greenwich favourite, the *Cutty Sark*? Sadly for all temporal romantics, the answer has to be affirmative. The country must brace itself for a final settlement to one of the most divisive social issues of the century.

It is 20 years since the Wilson Government introduced its three-year experiment with British Standard Time, which kept the country one hour ahead of GMT between 1968 and 1971. It was abandoned, amid controversy, after a free vote in the Commons.

The fresh impetus has derived from Britain's membership of the European Community. Not only are most other members one hour ahead of Britain, but they end their own summer time arrangements one month earlier each year. The European Commission, rightly mindful of 1992 when so many aspects of European life are to be harmonized, is pressing for Britain to come into line with the Continent by 1990.

The Commission's modest objective has been to persuade this country to end BST every year at the end of September (instead of October) — a change which would certainly be unpopular in Britain because it would seem to hasten the onset of winter. There is, however, a grander option which would more than meet the European objective, while avoiding a dramatic plunge into the autumn dusk.

This is to take BST as the temporal base, and move to Double British Summer Time (DBST) from late March to the end of September. This would synchronize clocks precisely throughout Western Europe — assuming that the Irish Republic and Portugal (who are also on GMT) did the same. It is this option which the Government is discussing with interested parties and which deserves support.

Those organizations which are anxious for change include the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (Rospa), the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) and the Development Commission for Rural England (DCRE). Rospa, launching its own campaign this week, quoted official Transport and Road Research Laboratory figures which suggest that nearly 600 deaths and serious injuries on the roads could be avoided every year if an hour of

winter daylight were moved from the start of the day to the end of it — when statistics suggest that drivers and pedestrians are most careless. This would seem to apply particularly to children, who are travelling to and from school at those times.

The industrial argument is that British businessmen are out of phase with their European counterparts for at least four hours in every eight-hour day — in the morning, on either side of lunchtime and at night. Meanwhile, the DCRE and others, argue not only that lighter evenings would help tourism and the burgeoning leisure industries but that opinion polls have shown a clear majority in favour of switching.

Opinion is admittedly far from unanimous. Apart from those who would like to retain GMT for sentimental or nationalist reasons, there are others who would feel an understandable sense of grievance. These include farmers, building workers and others who traditionally start work early out-of-doors. For them, dark winter mornings might be not only unpleasant but dangerous. A critical reaction might also be anticipated in Ireland (and perhaps Wales and the West Country) where the sun arrives and departs later anyway; and in Scotland where winter days are that much shorter.

According, however, to Dr Mayer Hillman, a senior research fellow at the Policy Studies Institute in London who is nearing the end of the first full independent study of the matter, the evidence supporting the case for change is overwhelming. In energy costs alone it should save £100m a year. He points out that the plight of the farmer has been eased by the growing custom of keeping cows in sheds at night for six months of the year — thus avoiding the need to round them up for milking in the dark. As for building workers, he says, they might follow the Scandinavian practice of starting one hour later in the winter.

The Home Office has narrowed down the options to two. One of these is to keep things as they are. The other is to move to the BST/DBST model and thereby create a European time zone. There is a period of 12 months grace after which a decision must be made. But the social and industrial arguments for making better use of daylight hours are compelling. The country should not shrink from taking an historic step forward in time.

IF THE PHONE MAN DOESN'T CALL

By next spring, telephone users will have achieved a remarkable advance. British Telecom has agreed to make compensation payments to customers if, because of its own inefficiency, it does not repair faults within two days or meet agreed connection times.

To most customers, this offer must still seem like a dream. Under a nationalized monopoly responsible to Parliament rather than directly to consumers, such a commitment would indeed have been inconceivable. The culture of the public sector made it impossible to achieve these standards of service.

It is a measure of the change of culture at BT that Professor Bryan Carsberg, the director-general of Ofel, was able to press BT to accept these responsibilities without a full-scale battle. It also demonstrates the success of combining competition and tough-minded regulation to give the public a better deal from utilities with a strong monopolistic element.

It is too easy to identify the upsurge of complaints against BT — and the seemingly endless battles against consumer bodies and the regulator — with the privatization of a state monopoly. In the run-up to privatization, BT certainly went too far in its conversion to commercial aggression. It did so at the expense of customers, suppliers and fringe rivals. Later, it put too much emphasis on cutting costs to meet the price control formula imposed under its license. This was at the expense of standards of service.

More important for the long term, however, the upsurge in complaints against BT has demonstrated a change in consumers' expectations. BT's customers have raised their demands for a decent service at reasonable prices and know that the means now exist to meet those demands.

Professor Carsberg has ingeniously used his powers to foster what might so easily have

proved only nominal competition. He has tried to ensure that the need for BT's main domestic rival, Mercury Communications, to connect with BT services bolsters competition rather than hinders it.

Although in the business telephone market, competition alone has forced both Mercury and BT to embrace the prospect of compensation for failure to meet installation deadlines, BT has accepted that principle elsewhere because it knows that Ofel is now considering the elements of a new pricing formula. Performance standards could have been imposed had BT not accepted the deal.

BT is also now more confident that better equipment and improved efficiency make such targets achievable. Thinking among top BT management has progressed even to the extent that it sees unavoidable externally-imposed targets as a help in its efforts to improve efficiency. The call-box scandal has proved a particularly salutary lesson. For years, far too many telephone kiosks have been out of order. Given a deadline to have 90 per cent operating, which seemed impossible only two months ago, BT has been obliged to raise its efforts and looks likely to achieve its goal.

So far similar improvements have barely started at British Gas, mainly because it was privatized with less stress on competition and much lighter regulation. Even here, however, industrial customers have started to use both Brussels and Ofgas (via its powers of reference to the Monopolies Commission) to redress long-standing grievances.

New tests will soon come with the privatization of water and sewerage and electricity supply. Consumers must hope that the Environment Secretary and the Energy Secretary have fully absorbed the lessons British Telecom is now beginning to learn.

SERIOUS MONEY

France is to throw lower-case modesty to the winds and adopt a new symbol for its undervalued currency. Come the autumn, the French franc (ff) will go into the safe for the last time, and on to the counter will come the Franc, a majestically styled capital F with a double crossbar through it, ready to hold its own with the pound sterling and the dollar on international finance boards.

If currency symbols say anything about national character and mood, the demise of the ff heralds the end of the willowy, effete frenchman gesticulating in despair about the plight of his native land. In his place will stand the sound, upstanding, self-assured Frenchman, the Mitterrand-Chirac composite that betokens today's France. That, at least is what France's politicians and financiers must hope for: a serious symbol denoting serious money for a newly serious people.

At present, only the pound sterling and the dollar have the status and solidity that are conferred by an internationally recognized symbol. The pound has had its £ — the embellished L with cross bar — for the best part of three centuries; the now standard second crossbar has been common for nearly two. The dollar, a design believed to be derived from the motif on the Spanish Pieces of Eight, has been around for nearly as long. Both have come to symbolize real countries — and real money.

Other nations, whether through lack of tradition or lack of imagination, content themselves with initial letters of the alphabet

for their currency. The DM and the Rouble have outward solidity without style or substance. The Italian Lira's L is a travesty of that country's spirit. When Italy removes the surplus nougats from its currency it should compensate by adding a flourish or two to its lira sign.

Yet others have borrowed the symbols of more highly-valued currencies in an attempt to bestow upon their own coinage a respectability — and a convertibility level — it might not otherwise have. The attempt — as with the Australian and Hong Kong dollars and the Turkish lira — is rarely a complete success.

More successful than bland initials or borrowed symbols, as the French have recognized, is the letter crossed through once or twice to ensure that it is interpreted not as letter or number but as something else. The Japanese yen, and now the Chinese yuan too, have adopted this course. The crossbars on the pound may have been introduced for this reason. Now France is double-crossing its new F. The result is elegant and tastefully restrained — very French.

The task before France now is to match coin to symbol and give the weight to the Franc that francs — smaller and lighter than British pounds and pence — still lack. To do this, however, will cost money — and money, whether francs or Francs, is what the French exchequer must be short of. Why else would it want to enhance the image of the franc?

Nato's other nuclear area

From Dr G. Divita

Sir, All available reports on the recent Nato conference assume the German theatre to be the only deployment area of Nato nuclear artillery in continental Europe. No mention has been made of another major deployment of nuclear guns: in north-east Italy. Its strategic purpose is to hold the "Jubjuna Gap" between the Alps and the Adriatic sea — the classic route from the Danubian plain to the Po valley and central Mediterranean, in the Middle Ages and in the First World War.

The ordnance includes batteries of self-propelled 8-inch M109 guns, known in Italy as M120s, with W48 nuclear warheads and 12-mile range; the newer nuclear-capable FH70 7-inch pieces, whose 26-foot barrel allows a 19-mile range; and, probably, stores of nuclear mines, to be eventually placed in underground sites, already prepared along possible lines of enemy advance.

Surveying the scenario of atomic weapons in Italy, it may be noted that both the cruise in Sicily, now to be dismantled, and the F16, soon to be deployed in southern Italy, are wings of the United States Air Force, and the Italian General Staff has no operational authority on them.

On the contrary, the nuclear ordnance in the Friuli region belongs to the 27 Field Artillery Regiment — with HQ at Oderzo, 30 miles north of Venice — which is a unit of the Fifth Corps of the Italian Army. Yours faithfully, GIULIO DIVITA, Clare College, Cambridge, March 10.

Spiritual delight

From Mr L. Stanley

Sir, In view of the recent publicity accorded in your columns to the Thyssen-Bornemisza collection and the Villa Farnesina, it might be worth mentioning the following:

At the entrance to the galleries at Lugano, the visitor is welcomed by a beautiful inscription in German — *Schönheit ist die freieste Wohnung der Seele*. This translates something like, "It is amidst beauty that the soul attains the greatest freedom."

I do not know if this is an original quotation or whether it is Baron Thyssen's (or his father's) own words.

The baron mentioned during one of his interviews that he contemplates any one of his pictures for 20 to 30 minutes at a time. The sentence aptly sums up the spiritual delight such beauty must evoke in him and every individual fortunate enough to cast his eyes on this superb collection. Yours faithfully, L. STANLEY, 32 Burton Court, Franklin's Row, SW3, March 23.

Child benefit loss

From Mrs Fran Bennett

Sir, Much of the post-Budget commentary has concentrated on its distributional effects as between rich and poor. Little has been written about its impact on the balance of the tax burden between families and the childless (known in the jargon as "horizontal equity").

Yet the Budget increase in personal tax allowances of double the rate of inflation will be followed by a freeze in child benefit in April. As Tony Marlow, MP, pointed out recently, the effect of the tax cuts and the child-benefit freeze combined is to take money away from those with children and give it to those without children.

In the past, this Government has acknowledged that, since the abolition of child tax allowances, child benefit is the only recognition within our tax/benefits system of the extra costs faced by those bringing up children. Yet the failure to uprate child benefit this year will mean families falling further behind the childless in the amount of tax-free income they enjoy.

This seems a paradoxical outcome for a Government which has recently been highlighting the "moral support" it gives to the family.

Yours sincerely, FRAN BENNETT, Coordinator, Save Child Benefit, 1-5 Bath Street, ECI, March 24.

Airport opposed

From Sir Colin Buchanan

Sir, Your leader of March 19, "Crowds overhead", which was discussed at the annual general meeting yesterday of the Friends of the Vale of Aylesbury, appeared to accept the need for yet another airport in the South-east. It was dismissive of the opposition on environmental grounds which might come from the "Sussex and Buckinghamshire light infantry".

Light infantry indeed! Armoured divisions would be a better description! Any proposal for an airport in or affecting the Vale of Aylesbury will be contested with the same anger and vigour which 16 years ago defeated the ill-advised proposal to site the third London airport at Cuddington, in the Vale, and which was displayed a few years later when the same proposal was resurrected under the name of Hoggeston. Sir, you are much in error to think that the prospect of being deprived of

Cot death and electronic monitors

From Dr M. P. Samuels and Dr D. P. Southall

Sir, We are concerned to read of the increase in the number of cot deaths that occurred in 1986, as reported by your editor's Correspondent (March 18). However, we feel that it is important to point out that no study has shown that these deaths can be prevented by using "an electronic monitor which sounds an alarm if the baby stops breathing".

The fact that the Cot Death Society has monitored 628 infants with this monitor without a cot death occurring is not evidence that the monitors prevent death. The incidence of cot death is around two per thousand births and therefore only one cot death might have been expected in this small sample.

Mrs Howe, of the Cot Death Society, states that "many of the babies have stopped breathing more than 100 times" and in the society's literature it is stated that "indisputably the only chance for survival of a baby suffering from apnoea is a respiration monitor", but our experience has taught us that these alarms, occurring as a result of absent breathing movements, need to be validated by recording of breathing movements, airflow into the lungs and blood oxygen levels.

The word breathing in the context of the respiration monitor recommended by the Cot Death Society merely refers to the detection of movement of the abdomen and does not refer to the adequacy of oxygen stores in the lungs, an absence of which may also be called apnoea, in spite of continued breathing movements. This latter situation may explain why some infants have died on this kind of monitor and why these monitors create a false sense of security in parents.

In addition, false alarms occur when babies make shallow movements of the abdomen but continue to adequately replenish oxygen stores in the lungs. These false alarms may wake infants from natural sleep and there is some data suggesting that cot death rates of infants so monitored may, in fact, be higher than those not subject to the frequent scares of false alarms.

At a recent conference held by the US National Institute of Child Health and Human Development it was agreed that only a controlled clinical trial of these monitors would show whether they were beneficial, harmful, or without value. Undoubtedly, some parents who have lost a baby from cot death gain reassurance at hearing the sound made by some monitors with each breath of their new baby. However, it is important that if they receive monitoring for this reason they are fully informed of the monitoring limitations and that the general health of their baby and the use of the monitor is supported by a paediatrician, who ideally would have access to investigate the cause of any alarms that may occur. Yours faithfully, MARTIN P. SAMUELS, D. SOUTHALL, The Cardiothoracic Institute, Brompton Hospital, Fulham Road, SW3.

Head to head

From Mr R. A. H. Neave

Sir, Professor Cave (March 12), when considering the question of reconstructing a face upon a skull, correctly asserts that it is "quite impossible accurately to estimate the degree of development of the facial musculature and subcutaneous tissue or the precise configuration of the lips, the external nose and the external ear." He further points out that several faces could all be assigned to one skull.

These are facts that the media often overlook, but at the same time you can be sure that these several different faces would all look uncannily alike; some fatter, some thinner, but similar. The skull is after all the matrix upon which the face is built, and what constitutes a likeness is decided largely by the relative position and size of the eyes, mouth and nose one in relation to the other and against the shape of the head. These facts are determined by the bony skull.

A "reconstructed" head based purely upon the skull can be no more than a synthesis of all the known facts, gleaned from the bones by pathologists, anthropologists and odontologists, presented in a manner that is readily understood.

Ford impasse

From Lord Aberconway

Sir, Mr Ron Todd, of the TGWU, seeks to shelter behind the Prime Minister's admirable precept that one should not break an agreement (report, March 22). Can someone explain to him that there is a fundamental difference between contravening an agreement to the detriment of the other party, and relaxing one's own rights under an agreement?

Yours, ABERCONWAY, 40 Lowndes Street, SW1, March 24.

New Islamic state?

From Dr A. F. A. Sayeed

Sir, The statement in your leading article (March 18) that "for them [Bangladeshis] — 87 per cent of them Muslim" — Calcutta is as important as Mecca" is insensitive and ignorant. To the average Bangladeshi Muslim, Mecca (correctly Makkah-al Mukarrama), like any other Muslim city, is unique and it is blasphemous to compare it with any other city.

In the field of literature, Kalikot Nazrul or Jasin are better understood than Tagore or Ray. Bangla literature is proud of its rich heritage. Dhaka is considered the literary capital rather than Calcutta or Shantiniketan. Yours faithfully, A. F. A. SAYEED, Ramna, 2 Mickleton Drive, Leicester, March 21.

"Flights to Torremolinos or Torro" would cause us to stand by and watch the desecration of the Vale by an airport.

Simply to push the proposal on to someone else's patch would miss the point. The issue here is not solely the demand and supply of flying facilities. The issue concerns the face of England and what sort of face it should be in the nation's best long-term interests.

More especially it concerns the face of the south-east quarter of England where, as a result of the growing imbalance of wealth between north and south, there are ominous signs of suburban peck-marking taking place on an unprecedented scale, to the detriment of our best-loved asset of all — the English countryside.

Yours etc, COLIN BUCHANAN (President, Friends of the Vale of Aylesbury), Appletree House, Lincombe Lane, Boars Hill, Oxford, March 20.

Curb on forensic science work

From Dr A. M. C. Gallop and Mr R. E. Stockdale

Sir, As former Home Office forensic scientists now in private practice, we understand the deep depression that led to the motions of no confidence in the management of the forensic science service, (report, March 18, early editions). This unprecedented action reflects the antagonism our Home Office colleagues feel toward their managers who, in the face of financial constraints, have been ineffective in halting the decline in career prospects and proper reward for the essential and difficult job the scientists do.

But, more worrying is the effect that depressed morale and ever-increasing work loads are having on the standard of scientific evidence produced by the official laboratories. This comes at a time when the very few independent scientists properly qualified to test the opinions of Home Office staff are turning away from this sort of work because of the poor remuneration offered under the present legal aid system, and the uncertainties about when and to what extent their reasonable fees will be met by it.

The courts increasingly rely upon scientific evidence and the combination of falling standards and inadequate independent testing inevitably have far-reaching consequences for the quality of justice handed down. It is time that funding for official and independent forensic science came under realistic review and the demands of the adversarial nature of our judicial system were taken properly into account. Yours faithfully, ANGELA GALLOP, RUSSELL STOCKDALE, Forensic Access, Crossroads House, Priory Road, Newbury, Berkshire, March 22.

ON THIS DAY

MARCH 26 1927

Beethoven died in Vienna on March 26, 1827. This century's leading composer was born in Bonn, Germany (1770-1827). The Times music critic from 1911 until his death.

Beethoven.

To-day musical representations of many countries congregate in Vienna, where BEETHOVEN lived and died. They are to visit his tomb, lay wreaths upon it, and make speeches around it... Most important of all, BEETHOVEN'S music will be heard in concert room and opera house, given in the conditions which his art demands with unstinted care in the preparation and complete concentration in the reception. That is the tradition which BEETHOVEN left behind him in Vienna a hundred years ago, and whatever Vienna has lost it has held fast to his faith in music. It is some satisfaction to English people to feel that, however weak their own musical faith may be, their forefathers were not slow in affirming the Beethoven "Credo". The Royal Philharmonic Society, which celebrated him on Thursday night at the Albert Hall with a performance of his Missa Solemnis under Sir HUGH ALLEN'S direction, began its long career 114 years ago with a symphony of BEETHOVEN; and every one of its eight programmes in the year 1813 contained one or more of those works of his which have since proved their immortality...

To praise BEETHOVEN now is easy, to listen to him in 1813 was difficult. It required some generosity of spirit then to perceive that persistence in face of difficulties was worth while. The founders of the Philharmonic who put their faith in BEETHOVEN deserve the gratitude of those English people who are proud to honour him to day. His faith at Bonn and at Vienna was sustained through all their bewildering experiences in the discovery of the man they knew in the music... At the present day if we have any difficulty in entering into the spirit of BEETHOVEN it is because of the excess of instruction. Literary commentaries are poured out from the press; his centenary is being made the occasion for mechanical replicas of his music by record and roll which are affirmed to be so like the originals that those who remain conscious of the essential differences between the real and the reproduced are charged with pedantry for insisting upon them. It is made practically impossible for us to approach BEETHOVEN as his first hearers approached him... or to stand amazed like his first foreign hearers by the miracle of his attainment. There is a real danger that BEETHOVEN should become a commonplace of everyday life. Does such a centenary celebration as his birthday danger or provide a safeguard against it? That must depend upon the use made of it by each individual. Some resolution is needed to make it profitable, to convert it from an orgy of sentimental reflection into an occasion for enlarging our own realization of a great man's stature.

Lateral thinking

From Mrs Joan Sweeting

Sir, Thank you for allowing me to prove to myself that full-time motherhood does not rot the brain entirely, but that it is incompatible with other pursuits.

While blithely calculating in your "Tournament of the Mind" how long it would take to fill a bath with both taps on and the plug out (letters, March 18) I failed to estimate that the time taken for this calculation would exceed that needed for two ominously quiet small children to fill a wash-basin with both taps on and the plug in by about four minutes. (Calculate the amount of water flooding the bathroom and the length of time needed to mop it up?). Yours faithfully, JOAN SWEETING, 20 Lesbury Road, Heaton, Newcastle, Tyne and Wear, March 18.

March 26-April 1, 1988

SATURDAY

A WEEKLY GUIDE TO LEISURE
ENTERTAINMENT AND THE ARTS

The spy who posed as himself

When Colonel Stewart Menzies married Lady Avice Sackville at St Martin-in-the-Fields on November 29, 1918, 18 days after the German surrender, it was the first large society marriage of the peace — although, in a concession to the times, there was no ostentation beyond a guard of honour formed by officers of the 2nd Life Guards.

Menzies, then aged 28, had won the DSO at Ypres in 1914 before taking the post of chief of counter-espionage and security to the British army in France. On his return in 1918 he had informed his regiment and the War Office that he wished to make a career in secret service.

He was attached to a department of the War Office called MO4, whose functions were to report to the King on the uncertain political mood of the country and to estimate the extent to which the armed forces had become disaffected through reaction to the wartime slaughter and the Bolshevik revolution in Russia; at Victoria Station, 10,000 British soldiers had mutinied on their way back from France and were only deflected by the Horse Guards from marching on Buckingham Palace.

Yet even as he began this dangerous and difficult work, he was proposing marriage to the daughter of a known subversive. Lady Avice's father, the eighth Earl De La Warr, was an adulterer who could have found himself in the divorce courts, but for his death in a motor torpedo boat in the Sicilian Narrows in 1916; still more troubling were the attitudes of Countess Muriel De La Warr, whom the earl had abandoned for an actress before the war.

According to the intelligence bulletins that Menzies was receiving each week from the Home Office, his future mother-in-law subscribed to all manner of causes that were regarded as being seditions, or very nearly so. These ranged from theosophy to pacifism, from a mild attack of Bolshevism to her more serious devotion to movements supporting freedom for British India.

Yet the marriage took place, and Menzies began his rise through the layers of the Secret Intelligence Service. During the 1920s, as effective deputy to the head of the SIS, Admiral Sir Hugh Sinclair (known as "C"), he emerged as a major figure in world intelligence — and one about whom much could be learnt simply from turning to his entry in *Kelly's Handbook to the Titled, Landed and Official Classes*.

Menzies was well aware of the need to protect himself. In his case, though, concealment was barely necessary — for, as one of his staff remarked, Menzies "posed as himself". He was protected by the almost impenetrable nature of the institutions that he joined after the First World War and to which he belonged for the rest of his life.

To the world beyond the secret circle, Menzies appeared to be still with his regiment, the Life

As the head of Britain's Secret Intelligence Service — codenamed "C" — from 1939 to 1952, Sir Stewart Menzies was Churchill's wartime spymaster. His triumphs included the vital cracking of the Enigma code in 1939, and the assassination of his counterpart, Reinhardt Heydrich (right), in 1942, when it was feared that Heydrich was about to destroy the SOE's French



networks. Later, he was forced to confront the treachery of the traitor Philby (far right). Before the war, however, Menzies had led a very public existence, not untouched by scandal. ANTHONY CAVE BROWN, in an extract from a new biography, describes how, from White's Club to the Beaufort Hunt, the life of Stewart Menzies seemed like an open book



chief of Britain's secret service suddenly became worth the sizeable sum of £6,000 a year.

Nevertheless, by the autumn of 1928 Lady Avice and Spicer were appearing everywhere together, careless of gossip. Then, through the machinations of the gods, Frank Spicer became richer than Stewart Menzies. His father, Captain John Spicer, died, leaving an estate of about £650,000; the eldest son, Anthony, was his sole heir — as was the custom where great estates were concerned. Frank benefited not at all. But the fates intervened. In November 1928, only a few months after John Spicer's death, a gale swept through Spyre Park. Anthony took shelter under a tree, the tree was struck by lightning, and a limb fell and killed him. Frank therefore inherited the family fortune.

Lady Avice found herself at last able to change horses. A major scandal evolved, one that had the potential to ruin Menzies. Among the attempts to intervene may well have been one involving the King and Queen, for between November 12 and 18, 1928, both Menzies and Lady Avice were guests of King George V and Queen Mary at Sandringham. There was a great deal of gunfire — the party killed 749 pheasants, 60 partridges, 20 hares, 13 woodcock, 10 wood pigeons, six rabbits and five "miscellaneous" — but any attempt at reconciliation did not prosper. On June 20, 1929, it was announced that Menzies had resigned from the Life Guards, a necessary first step before the divorce.

Their lawyers planned the action in such a way as to preclude gossip and minimize damage to Menzies's career. An absolute agreement was reached between the parties that whatever Lady Avice or Frank Spicer had learnt about Menzies's work was to be regarded as a permanent confidence. Throughout the remainder of Lady Avice's long life — she died in 1985 — she acted and talked, according to one observer, "as though she had never met Stewart Menzies". Her main contribution to Menzies's life had been not marital tranquillity but literary notoriety: just as Ian Fleming borrowed elements of Menzies's character for his "M", so Lady Avice provided John le Carré with the model for Lady Anne, George Smiley's aristocratic and errant wife, who, knowing nothing of her husband's work, betrayed him for an orchid.

Yet Menzies was to suffer not at all from the divorce. He remarried in December 1932, even as he was being promoted to C's deputy in title as well as fact. Far from being disgraced, he had emerged as a member of the War Office establishment, one of the mandarins, still perfectly acceptable in the royal enclosure at Ascot.

Adapted from *The Secret Servant: The Life of Sir Stewart Menzies, Churchill's Spymaster*, by Anthony Cave Brown, to be published by Michael Joseph on Monday, price £19.95.



Hiding in open ground: Stewart Menzies (above, and right, with Lady Avice) used a career in the Life Guards as cover for his intelligence work

Guards, a gorgeous figure in scarlet and gold riding under the plane trees of St James's Park with the standard, or at the King's Birthday Parade on the Horse Guards at the head of a squadron. When he was not riding with the regiment he was working in the War Office or riding with his hunt. Menzies was popular for his dry wit and trusted for his discretion.

Nobody could ever get out of him the inner secrets of the service, not even the King, for in 1923 this exchange took place across the dinner table between Menzies and King George V:

The King: Menzies, who is our man in Berlin?

Menzies: Sir, if my service has a man in Berlin, I may not divulge his identity.

The King: Menzies, what would you say if I said: 'Menzies, give me the name of our man in Berlin, or off with your head'?

Menzies: Sir, were you to give such an order, and when your order was carried out, my head would roll with my lips still sealed.

Of all the institutions that provided him with cover, the most important was White's, which he joined at the beginning of the Twenties. Founded in 1693, White's was undoubtedly a secure place — a sanctuary where only men with money, position and discretion could remain comfortable for very long. Everybody was somebody at White's, but being somebody did not guarantee membership.

It was testament to the power of the secret service and the influence and popularity of the man that he was proposed, seconded and admitted immediately. For, as one of the club's historians wrote of the process whereby a man became a member, White's was "a place of probation where one waited, with what patience one could muster, for admittance to the Holy of Holies... distinguished people waited for years, and some waited forever."

Closely connected to Eton and the Life Guards, White's was much concerned with bloodlines, mares and heirs. Menzies felt so much at home in the club that he made it a sort of annex to the SIS offices just off Parliament Square, having much of his most secret mail sent to White's, in the belief that it was more likely to be safe in the hands of Groom, the hall porter, than the mail room of the secret service; he was often to be seen reading papers by the fireplace in the billiards room, which was almost always empty. On most days he lunched on *goujon de sole*, a club speciality; although everyone at White's knew who Menzies was, there was never any gossip.

The other institution in Menzies's life was at least as impen-

etrable as White's. On Thursday evenings, when possible, he would catch the Spa Express from Paddington to Bath. By prior arrangement, the express would make a special stop at the Duke of Beaufort's private railway station, where Menzies and other friends of the Duke would alight. There Stewart Menzies became a fox-hunting man.

Here, at the start of the hunting season of 1921-1922, Menzies received an honour he regarded even more highly than membership of White's or his DSO. He was invited by the Marquess of Worcester, the Duke of Beaufort's heir and master of the Beaufort, the most famous of all hunts, to wear the blue and buff riding coat, an invitation which showed that Menzies had become accepted in a little world that was not only a sporting fraternity but also a political and social cabal of great importance.

Menzies hunted as frequently as his secret duties allowed; that frequency was, in a sense, a barometer of politics. When the world situation became serious, Menzies did not appear at all. When he appeared frequently, the realm was secure.

Almost always he was accompanied by Lady Avice, who rode

side-saddle and wore a bowler hat and black hunting habit with a skirt that reached to her spurs.

Avice's friendship with the Marquess caused much comment and speculation. But the relationship may have been a mutual devotion created by the salmon and trout fly, for both were keen fishermen and since the earliest days of her marriage had spent much time together fishing the Scottish, Hampshire, Wiltshire and Yorkshire streams.

By 1923, however, Lady Avice had become discontented with the marriage. First, there was their failure to produce a family, which may have been the result of a shrapnel injury Menzies seems to have suffered on Windy Ridge in 1914; second, there was her aspiration to grander living than Menzies could provide. Yet the troubles that beset the couple were not wholly her fault, for Menzies himself was not beyond criticism. Adoring lively women as he did, and especially those outside the mink and manure set of his hunt, Menzies first met Ursula Lutyens, daughter of the architect Sir Edwin Lutyens, in August 1921. Ursula, then in her early twenties, fell seriously in love with Menzies.

The association lasted about a year, and Ursula wanted marriage, but Menzies refused to leave Lady Avice, perhaps because a man involved in a divorce action was still expected to resign from his regiment. Never one to change horses without a good deal of thought, Menzies remained with Lady Avice and his friendship with Ursula came to an end.

By 1926, though, rumours began to be heard in "Beaufortshire" that Avice was unhappy and that, having failed to capture the Marquess, who had now succeeded to the dukedom, she was now interested in a Captain Frank Spicer, of Spyre Court, a large and beautiful estate. Aged 33 and unmarried, Spicer was a tall, lanky and handsome man who had few interests other than blood sports; his only drawback, in Lady Avice's eyes, was the size of his allowance — a mere £400 annually. On the other hand, when Menzies's stepfather, Sir George Holford, died in 1926, and the proceeds from the sale of his estate were distributed, the deputy

As the head of Britain's Secret Intelligence Service — codenamed "C" — from 1939 to 1952, Sir Stewart Menzies was Churchill's wartime spymaster. His triumphs included the vital cracking of the Enigma code in 1939, and the assassination of his counterpart, Reinhardt Heydrich (right), in 1942, when it was feared that Heydrich was about to destroy the SOE's French networks. Later, he was forced to confront the treachery of the traitor Philby (far right). Before the war, however, Menzies had led a very public existence, not untouched by scandal. ANTHONY CAVE BROWN, in an extract from a new biography, describes how, from White's Club to the Beaufort Hunt, the life of Stewart Menzies seemed like an open book

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TRAVEL

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SKI REPORT

Although the last week has been mild, with a mixed bag of weather, there is still a lot of snow throughout the Alps. But much of it below 2,000 metres is in poor condition. The coming week looks set to become sunnier and more settled. Getting the best out of this warmer weather will be a matter of taking full advantage of short-lived good snow.

At the higher levels the plentiful snow will provide spring conditions. This means that between the early morning ice and the afternoon porridge there is a short spell of almost ideal skiing just as the snow starts to melt. This transition normally occurs soon after the sun gets full on to any slope. So by following the sun round a big, varied resort it is possible to get the best of the skiing for much of the day.

W. J. Burroughs

SKI EVENTS

FRANCE

Avoriaz: Parapente Championships, April 10; Monoski championships, April 11. Courchevel: Pro-am Mogul Snowboard monoskiing and skiing trophy, April 10. Courchevel 1550: Grand Prix de Ski d'Anglet, April 7. La Plagne: Pro-am Mogul Skiing Trophy, April 6.

SWITZERLAND

St Moritz: Super G at Pontresina, April 10; Bavarian Curling: International Spring "Eisstock" Tournament, April 9-10.

Peter Hankey

OUT AND ABOUT

Museum on the water

The new waterways museum gives a tantalising glimpse of things to come

"Roses and castles," says Tony Conder, curator of the new National Waterways Museum, a trifle dismissively. He is referring to the canal-side museum at Stoke Bruerne in Northamptonshire and its focus on the decorative tradition of the Midlands narrowboatmen and the roses and brightly-painted castellated buildings on their vessels and utensils. The chiding is against himself, for until last year he ran Stoke Bruerne for the British Waterways Board. Now, at the museum in the Gloucester docks, due to open on Good Friday, Conder is out to make amends for concentrating on "the pretty side" of canal life.

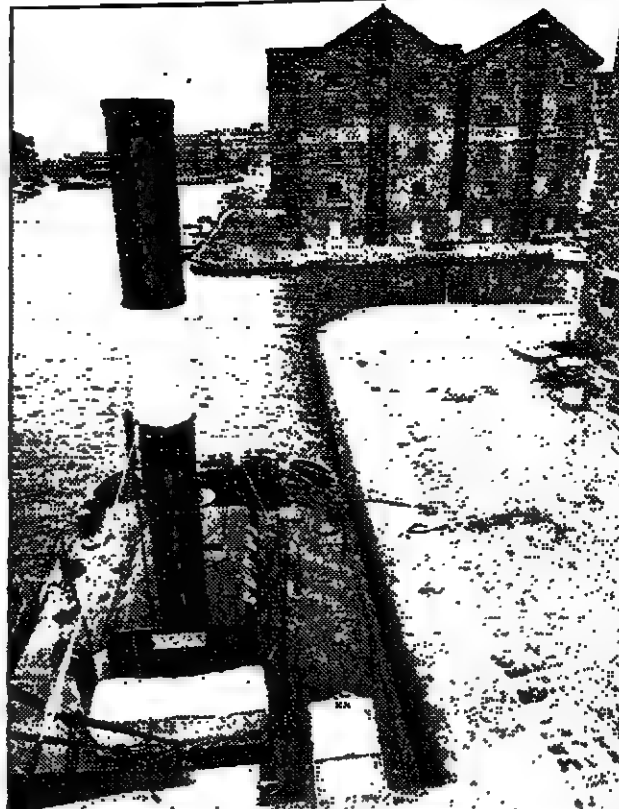
The museum has been in gestation for six years. Conder regards its site, within sight of Gloucester's cathedral, as perfect for understanding the working waterways: an entire dock basin surrounded by Victorian warehousing miles from the sea, a showcase (he hopes) for the harder side of canal life, the cranes, barges, and forges.

Since 1827 Gloucester has sat at the end of the Gloucester and Berkeley (now the Gloucester and Sharpness) Canal, a road for waterborne goods

leading to the oceanic docks at Avonmouth and Bristol or, upstream, into the canal network of the Midlands. Soon, the barge, the Kenner and Avon navigation will restore a through route from London to Bristol.

The exhibits will occupy two floors of the converted Llanthony Warehouse, reached off Southgate Street in Gloucester (watch for the brown signs saying "Historic Docks"). Visitors this weekend and for the next few months will have to be patient - there is asphalt yet to be done and brickwork yet to be pointed: the craft has yet to be built by the swing bridge leading into the dock basin, and the full extent of the exhibition area will not be ready until the museum is formally opened, by the Prince of Wales in the summer. Even then, it will be several years before Gloucester docks have been fully restored.

But for visitors willing to suspend belief, the National Waterways Museum is going to offer points of interest, especially to the practically-minded. The emphasis is on things to do, and touch. A sequence of events has been planned to bring, for example,



About to spring to life: the Waterways Museum in Gloucester

blacksmiths in to demonstrate its forge. (Over next weekend, there will be Morris men, singers and "folk artists".)

Llanthony Warehouse is a magnificent seven-storey building in which the regen-

erated engines and lockgates, models and machines will be displayed. Outside, the original line of the dock railway has been relaid, and Conder promises working steam trains. In the water sits a canal

bucket-dredger, into which children (and athletic adults) can climb. Part of the basin has been converted into a floating collection of canal craft, around the *Northwick*, a cargo-carrying narrowboat.

Here is where the Gloucester museum ought to work on two levels. For the casual visitor it will (when the building contractors have finished) offer a good half-day's tour. But for the enthusiast, the tow-path romantic, or the holiday-maker who has previously sampled the waterways, the museum offers a chance to deepen knowledge.

Such buffs will see not just a gaudily painted boat called the *Northwick* but a "joshier", an old Fellows Morton and Clayton butty boat, and their heads will fill with tales of the Harecastle Tunnels on the Trent and Mersey Canal in Staffordshire (2,680 yards long, bisected by old culverts driven through the hills by James Brindley to take the coal out of his diggings by boat) and the Foxton Locks on the Grand Union Canal in Leicestershire (five pairs of staircase locks with a combined fall of 75 feet).

David Walker

The National Waterways Museum, Llanthony Warehouse, Gloucester Docks. Tel 0452 22524. Opening April 1. Adults £2, children £1.25. Open Mon to Sat, 10am-6pm.

Walk on the wild side

OUTINGS

information on these exotic plants.

Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire (0242 523680). Today 11am-5pm, tomorrow 10am-4.30pm. Admission £1.

CHESSINGTON WORLD OF ADVENTURES: Re-opens for the season today with new rides, "themed areas" and live entertainment. Leatherhead Road, Chessington, Surrey (03727 27227). Today until October 30, daily 10am-5pm (4pm zoological gardens). Adult £6.25, child 4-14 £2.25, under-4s free.

THE OXFORD STORY: A GUIDE TO THE UNIVERSITY: Opening day of a new centre, developed by Heritage Projects in conjunction with the university, which takes visitors on an hour-long "spiral ride" using techniques similar to those at York's Jorvik Viking centre.

The Oxford Story, 6 Broad

CARE AND REPAIR SESSION

To coincide with the exhibition *The Things That Time Forgot*, an opportunity to learn more about your old household appliances - hoovers, toasters, gadgets - and how to maintain them.

Geffrey Museum, Kingsland Rd, London E2 (01-739 8368). Today 2pm-4pm. Free.

CARONJOY HORSE SHOW: Annual charity event in aid of the Injured Jockeys Fund and the Stoke Mandeville Spinal Unit. Showing and judging of hunters, cobs, riding horses and hacks, moorland and mountain and show ponies.

Priority Equestrian Centre, Frensham near Farnham, Surrey (025125 4181). Today 9 am-6 pm. Carpark £1, ring-side carpark £5. Walking adult 25p, child 10p.

STREET, OXFORD (0865 728822).

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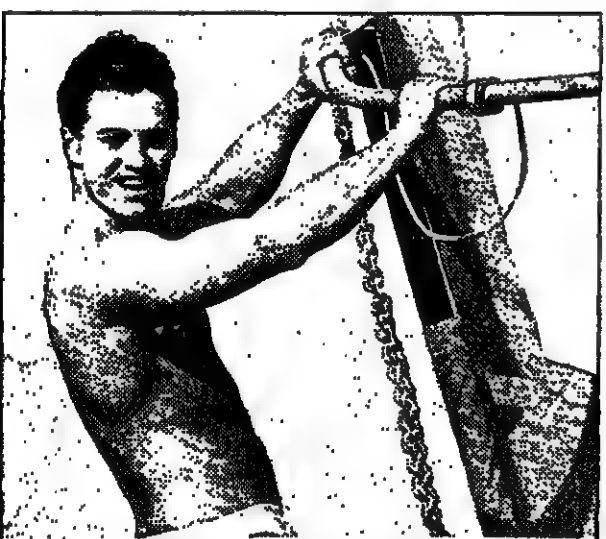
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THE TIMES COOK

Odds and ends left over on a Friday are rarely thrown away in Frances Bissell's kitchen

Taste without waste

There is one cooking task during the week that I find particularly satisfying, and the end results are just as enjoyable. The Friday soup is indeed made on Friday, for lunch or supper. Into it goes what is left in the vegetable basket, a handful of lentils or beans, some dried pasta, herbs, perhaps a few pieces of bacon and whatever meat stock I have left over in the refrigerator.

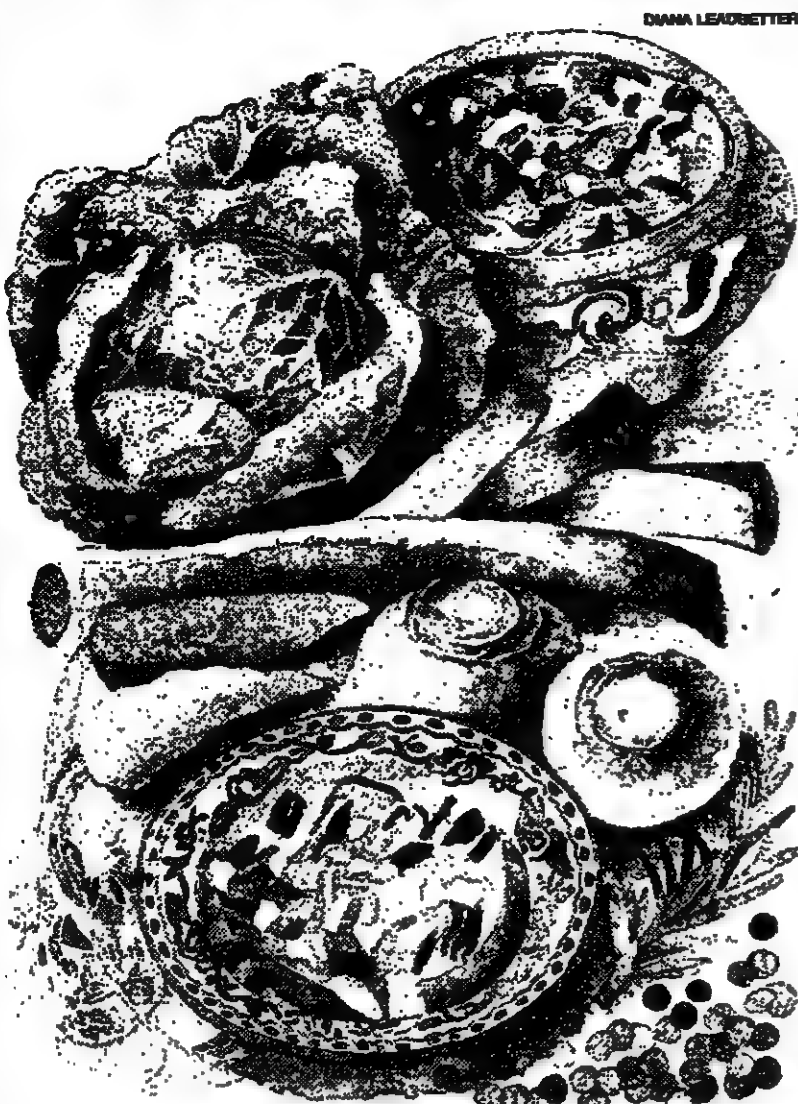
At this time of year, it is beginning to resemble a good Tuscan minestrone, with the first of the courgettes coming in from Spain and that crinkly, crunchy Savoy cabbage. The batch of tomato sauce I made earlier in the week for gnocchi and pasta is almost finished so the few remaining spoonfuls of that also find their way into the soup. The last of the wholemeal loaf is trimmed and sliced, toasted on one side and a piece put into a heated soup bowl with a trickle of olive oil poured on the untoasted side. The soup, by now almost a vegetable stew, is ladled on top of the bread and the heel of cheese bought the weekend before is grated on top.

Thus, a delicious dish, practically a meal in itself, is produced economically. The vegetable basket has been emptied and the bread and cheese rescued before they become dry and stale. Whenever I can, I try to avoid waste in this way. I can then go about my shopping the next day with a much clearer conscience.

I try not to overbuy, but it is difficult to curb this tendency, particularly when, as now, there is so much salad produce to choose from. Inevitably it goes limp after a few days however well you keep it. One way to revive it, which works particularly well for radicchio, oak leaf lettuce and other leaves, is to fill a large bowl with cold water, drop in a few ice cubes and the salad leaves. Leave them for 30 minutes, then take out of the water, and dry carefully before using. They will have plumped out and crisped up to a surprising degree. On the whole, I prefer not to soak vegetables as this tends to leach out some of the minerals, but if they have been sitting around in the salad drawer of the refrigerator for a few days, they will no longer be bursting with goodness anyway.

At the moment, I am trying to decide what to do with a large bowl of Sicilian blood oranges bought at the beginning of the week in a fit of enthusiasm. A sorbet perhaps? Juice for Sunday breakfast? Or a terrific Bucks Fizz...

Do not worry if you do not have the exact vegetables listed below. Substitute others as you wish. Sieved



DANNA LEADSBETTER

taste and store-cupboard. I like to serve the chops with Panna, Basmati or brown rice (the last needs longer cooking than the other two) and a vegetable cooked in plenty of juices, such as a ratatouille-type dish. Unlike though it may sound, cod catlets are delicious marinated, cooked and served in the same way, although they cook far more quickly of course.

- Grilled spiced pork chops**
(Serves 4)
4 pork chops
2 tablespoons mustard
1 tablespoon fruit chutney or apricot jam
½ teaspoon chilli sauce OR
¼ teaspoon chilli powder
2 cloves crushed garlic
1 tablespoon good sherry
½ tablespoon soy sauce
1 teaspoon Worcester sauce
1 teaspoon Angostura Bitters
1 teaspoon ground cumin
1 teaspoon ground coriander

Trim excess fat from the chops. Mix the rest of the ingredients together and brush it over the chops. Let them stand for at least 30 minutes to absorb some of the flavours. You can even prepare the meat in the morning, cover it and refrigerate it until required. Heat the grill and place the chops under the grill. Cooking time will depend on the thickness of the meat, not its overall weight. Make sure the meat is cooked through. Turn once only during the cooking time.

Fresh fruit is one of the nicest, simplest ways to end a meal, but for something a little sweeter, stir a spoonful of good jam, jelly or honey into a ramekin of thick, natural yoghurt or soft, low fat cheese such as "quark" or "fromage frais". Jam or honey can also be used to sweeten a fluffy omelette to be served at the end of a meal. Use a small non-stick omelette pan for best results.

- Jam omelette**
(Serves 2)
3 eggs, separated
2 dessertspoons jam or honey
2 teaspoons icing sugar

Separate the eggs. Beat the yolks with a tablespoon of cold water. Whisk the egg whites, and fold gently into the yolk mixture. Cook until the underside is set, and place the pan under a moderate grill to lightly cook the top. Fold the omelette over, cut it in half and serve on heated plates with a spoonful of jam or honey and sprinkled with icing sugar.

tomatoes can be used in place of the tomato sauce.

- Friday soup**
(Serves 4: divide quantities in half to serve 2)
1 medium onion
2 medium carrots
2 small turnips
1 large or 2 small leeks
2 celery stalks
piece of fennel bulb
1 tablespoon olive oil
½ pint/140 ml homemade tomato sauce
handful green lentils
2 pints/1.15 litres stock
2 courgettes

- ¼lb/110g shredded cabbage
2oz/60g spaghetti
2oz/60g chopped bacon or cooked ham (optional)
sprig rosemary, thyme or sage
1 bay leaf
seasoning to taste

Peel, slice or dice the vegetables, and fry in the olive oil until just browning. Stir in the tomato sauce, add the lentils and stock, bring to the boil, cover and simmer for 20 minutes. Add the rest of the ingredients, bring back to the boil, cover and simmer for a further 15 to 20 minutes. Serve very hot.

DRINK

Buy up big for Easter

Buy in bulk for convivial celebrations next weekend, Jane MacQuitty advises

With most wine outlets shut over Easter, apart from a crowded, queue-fringed Saturday, it makes sense to stock up on holiday wines over the next few days. As most of us will be celebrating Easter with friends or family, bulk purchases are likely to be high on everyone's list. So, well done Marks & Spencer and Oddbins for anticipating our Easter requirements with some appealingly discounted bulk offers.

Marks & Spencer's offer of 12 bottles for the price of 11 (that's roughly a 9% price reduction) operates from now until April 19 on a selected range of 13 white and red Bordeaux wines. The offer is limited to unopened cases only and runs from a basic white Entre Deux Mers (down from £2.75 to £2.52) to the rather more toothsome, gutsy, grassy heights of M & S's '85 vintage Margaux, none other than the second wine of Branc Canteau, down from £6.50 to £2.95.

My favourite among this baker's dozen of cut-price cases is the splendid '85 Chateau Haut Gallardet, a petit chateau claret which M & S has apparently sold for some time. Haut Gallardet is

a Bordeaux Supérieur property in the Côtes de Castillon, a Bordeaux satellite whose value for money wines are the finest currently being offered by the Côtes de Bordeaux right bank vineyards.

What I like about this fruity claret, from the fine '85 vintage, is its attractive deep crimson-purple colour, backed up by a lovely fresh, grassy, redcurrant scent, due to the one third Cabernet Franc grape in its mix, plus its fresh plummy, albeit youthful, palate. The palate comes from the 50 per cent of the Merlot grape that, with a small proportion of Cabernet Sauvignon, completes the Haut Gallardet orchestra. A bargain Easter claret this, down from £3.99 a bottle to £3.65 by the unopened case, and it would be delicious with that traditional Easter Sunday dish of new season lamb.

Oddbins' offer, alas, finishes tomorrow. But if you are quick you should still be able to secure your share today of their seven bottles of red Rhône wines for the price of six. Just four wines are included in this offer and I think the best bargain among them is the red '84 Côte du Rhône from Gaigal - one of the most revered names in the Rhône. The Gaigals' immaculate cellar is perhaps best known for its woodruff Côte Rôtie wines but this, no doubt the humblest wine they put their name to, is much removed from the humdrum level of most Côtes du Rhône reds. Surprisingly,

this rich purple Gaigal wine with its spicy black pepper and violet scent, plus its concentrated and equally spicy-fruity palate, is a product of the dry 1984 vintage. Usually priced at £4.49 a bottle, Oddbins' seven for the price of six offer brings this predominantly Grenache wine down to a tempting £3.85.

If Easter turns out to be the endlessly sunny holiday for which we all hope (and rarely get), then a few spring-like white wines are called for. Domaine de Paradis sounds a suitably enticing note, and for once the wine within lives up to its name. Threshers have just bought in a special parcel of Paradis for Easter, at the useful price of £2.99 a bottle. I enjoyed the fresh, green, leafy-citric scent and vibrant lemony palate of this '86 Domaine de Paradis.

COWSLIPS

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GARDENING

CLARE ROBERTS



New light on shade

Shady or sheltered beds and borders can provide unexpected pleasure, writes

Francesca Greenoak

With the firm prejudice that shade is a problem, I was dismayed when we moved house and found I would be taking charge of an 80ft-long shady border. However, it did not take long for my mind to change completely.

Among the advantages are an extended flowering period, the shelter afforded by a hedge, wall or trees, and the range of plants which, far from being restricted, seems inexhaustible. Plants which grow best away from fierce sunlight can afford greater delicacy and complexity in flower and foliage; the darkly crimped *Rogersia pinnata* with its panicles of frothy flowers, veratrum with their large, pleated leaves, or the delicate dicentra with intricate feathery grey-green foliage.

There are many plants which are easy to grow and will spread themselves, quickly populating a new shady bed or border. Columbine, honesty (*Aquilegia* and *Lunaria* spp.), lady's mantle *Alchemilla mollis* and foxgloves will quickly make a good show and self seed in bare places.

Plants which grow naturally in woodland conditions, such as snowdrops, winter aconite primroses and hellebores, do well in shaded gardens. There are other exciting possibilities, such as hepatica (native to

continental woodlands) with their dark, well-shaped leaves, evergreen in a mild winter, setting off their dainty blue flowers. Try to buy plants rather than the dried tubers, which need nursing in a mixture of equal parts of peat and sand until well-rooted, when they can be safely planted outside. Much more readily available and easily naturalized is the daisy-like blue *Anemone blanda*.

There are plants such as cyclamen (*Cyclamen hederifolium* and *C. coum*), wood lilies (*Tricyrtis*) and ferns which do not thrive at all without shade. More surprising, perhaps, is the performance of some of the plants one associates with sunny situations; I have summer spires of purple loosestrife, the Mediterranean sea holly (*Eryngium*) and sun-loving toadflax (*Linaria* spp.) in a place where the sun reaches only in mid-afternoon in summer and not at all in the

winter. If you can give such plants the shelter and soil conditions they enjoy and a little rock potash to encourage flowering, this compensates for less than ideal light conditions. All the plants mentioned will flourish in the shade in a reasonably fertile soil. To give the best conditions, incorporate organic material such as compost and composted manure of leafmould into the beds, and on heavy soils add a good proportion of grit to open them up and prevent waterlogging. As a rough rule of thumb, plants grow principally for foliage can tolerate deeper shade than those you choose for their flowers.

Of course, there is a good choice not only of herbaceous perennials but of shrubs and climbing plants. One thinks of tree peonies, camellias, choisya, hydrangeas and the elders flowering at different times through the season. There are many clematis which are shade-tolerant, such as the fragrant montana (*Clematis montana odorata* or *Wilsoni*) and the Hydrangea petiolaris will do well in shade, even on a north wall.

Amidega, conservatory builders, are at Faverdale, Dartington, Co. Durham DL3 0PW (0325 468522). The address was given wrongly last week.

WEEKEND TIPS

- Sow aubergines and sweet peppers to be raised in a heated greenhouse.
- Prepare the ground for sowing new lawns: clean and dig the area, break down clods of soil, firm and make a tilth (protect from cats).
- Plant early potatoes and onion sets.
- Give well-grown seedlings a weak liquid feed if you have to delay planting them out.
- Continue to divide clumps of hardy perennials.

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THE ARTS

From the horse's mouth

The English Thoroughbred (BBC2) had an unusual pedigree for a programme about horse racing. It came not from the sports department but from that famous arts stable, Arena — which is no doubt why in the middle it cut from a horse sale to the auction of Van Gogh's "Sunflowers".

Mary Dickinson's film was full of talking heads and nodding ones, often at the same time. Equine or no, they were horsey but the programme was not made for the racing expert, or by one. The only sign of an interviewer was the occasional muffled, hesitant question from a disembodied female voice when, as is so rare for racing people, there was a momentary pause in the flow of horse talk.

TELEVISION

The natural reserve of that great figure of the English turf, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, made the voice do a little more work. Being game enough, not to say rich enough, to treat racing as a sport rather than a business, he seemed completely perplexed when he was asked whether he preferred breeding or racing horses.

The selection of interviewees and the editing inevitably imposed a view of racing. But the strength of this view was its very lack of didacticism. The outsider kept a loose rein; not only were the insiders given their head but the camera was allowed to linger after a particular racing opinion was made so the peculiarities of their personalities appeared to a leisurely rhythm.

Inevitably, there were some comic counterpointing of English upper-class tones and horse flesh, but most intriguing, considering racing's argument about breeding versus environment, was the double act of Mr and Mrs Henry Cecil, who not only spoke for each other in verbal harmony but seemed to grow physically more alike on camera.

Andrew Hislop

The new reign of talent

New York is staging a festival of feature films by newcomers to the cinema.

David Robinson selects some of the names to watch out for in the future

The annual "New Directors-New Films" series, presented jointly by the Film Society of Lincoln Centre and the Film Department of the Museum of Modern Art, serves as a spring annex to the autumn New York Film Festival.

It promotes work by newcomers who could too easily be upstaged by the big names in the festival proper. The shrewdness of its selection (about 30 films are taken out of 300 considered) was proven last year when four of the films subsequently figured in the top 20 foreign hits at the United States box office.

The youngest and brightest of the new talents discovered this year is 27-year-old Atom Egoyan, an Armenian, born in Egypt and raised in Canada, where he made the extraordinary Family Viewing. The film cost practically nothing, but cost is irrelevant where there is a talent and a mind like Egoyan's at work, crackling from the screen like electric sparks.

His film is a bizarre comedy, with sparse Pinterish dialogue, that ranges philosophically over a variety of contemporary social disorders, including family breakdown, the immigrant experience, sexual frustration in manifold forms and, above all, the ever-spreading contamination by the electronic media.

The hero is a melancholy, party-faced youth (Aidan Tierney) who resents his brutish father, fends off the sexual assaults of his father's live-in mistress, and cares lovingly for his Armenian grandmother, discarded into a seedy home for geriatrics. He joins forces with a lady who works for a sex-by-telephone agency (whose services are used by his father) to bring about a surreal denouement.

Throughout, the video monitor is ever-present: the television screens which mesmerize the geriatric pa-



Undercover partners: Arsinée Khanjian as the sex-by-phone girl and Aidan Tierney, the hero, plotting together in the black comedy Family Viewing

tients; the porno home-videos which the father records, wiping old records of a past and happier family life; the surveillance screens of offices or private investigators.

The video screen, in fact, provides an all-purpose metaphor for private or communal memory and for social alienation. Throughout the film, Egoyan interpolates passages of electronically recorded images, of varying picture quality, to produce distinctive visual textures.

There was a moving tribute to the arrival of this exceptional new talent at the recent Montreal New Cinema Festival, when Wim Wenders insisted on turning over to Egoyan the first prize awarded to his own Wings of Desire.

Jean-Pierre Denis's Champ d'houneur is an example of a good film that was practically overlooked when it appeared as a little fish in

the big pool of the Cannes Festival last year. Denis pursues his film career concurrently with a job in the French customs service; and Champ d'houneur took three years to make.

It is an impeccably staged period drama, set in the Franco-Prussian war of 1870 and setting out to show that honour and human decency can survive the battlefield. The personable Cris Campion plays a peasant youth who goes to the army as a substitute for a rich conscript in order to relieve the family debts. Through all the horrors of war, Denis manages to sustain a remarkable tenderness in his treatment of the soldier, a little boy who befriends him, and the tribulations of the folks left back home.

Robert Gliniski's Sunday Pranks is a bitter fable from Poland, completed five years ago, but only

released with the current political relaxations. It is set on a day in 1953 when Warsaw is busy mourning the death of Stalin, and the kids from a bomb-damaged housing block are left to play in the courtyard.

Our Gang amuse themselves with imitations of grown-up games like "shoot-the-Jews" and "everyone-takes-orders-from-the-man-with-the-medals". The fat bully of the gang becomes an infant Stalin, and the children's play becomes a very sinister allegory. Running only one hour, Sunday Pranks is virtuoso film-making which incidentally demonstrates the enduring effectiveness of black-and-white photography.

Like all good allegories, Sunday Pranks works even for anyone unaware of the political background, and the same goes for another Polish film (shelved since 1981), Jerzy Domaradzki's The

Great Race. This is also set at the close of the Stalin era, and describes the preparations and politics of a Peace Run, designed, of course, in the service of anti-American propaganda.

A world away from such dark political parables is a first feature by a young African director, Idrissa Ouedraogo, working in Burkina Faso (formerly Upper Volta). A gentle, limpid, optimistic tale of a peasant family's migration from the drought-ridden north to more fertile lands in the south, the outstanding achievement of The Choice is to make its exotic places and people instantly comprehensible and winningly familiar.

The British representatives in the New Directors series, screened at the Museum of Modern Art, included Christine Edzard's Little Dorrit and Peter Wollen's Friendship's Death.

Miserly awards misery

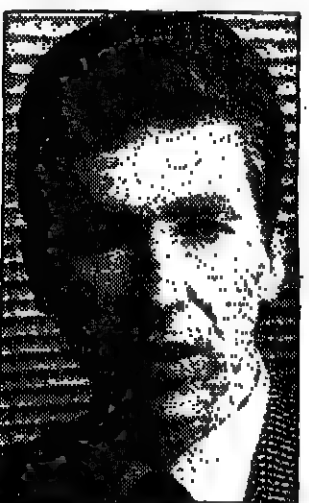
Andrew Billen on the furore caused by this week's cutbacks in London arts grants

For an organization with £8 million of taxpayers' largesse to distribute, London's regional arts association has been left with remarkably few friends this week following the announcement of its annual grant awards. It has managed not only to drive the Arts Council to distraction but its own chairman of black arts to quit.

Faced with a 10 per cent cut in its funding this year, Greater London Arts (GLA) could have imposed the reductions uniformly. By distributing fair shares of misery to all, it might even have focused attention on its misery award from 105, Piccadilly.

Instead, the outcry by hard-done-by theatres, dance troupes and art galleries has ensured that resentment has focused on the criteria GLA has used to choose when deciding who to support and who to cut. These weigh judgements about artistic standards and administrative competence against other priorities: black and ethnic minority arts, the disabled, the geographical spread of arts provision, education and training.

Trevor Vibert, GLA's director, argues passionately for the emphasis on black arts, which accounts for a quarter of all



spending on annual clients. He claims society is stockpiling misery and turmoil if the images of blacks presented via the arts are not improved.

So GLA is not in the business of disinterested support of London Arts. It is committed to redressing the balance of arts provision in London, which it sees as dominated by the West End and the South Bank. Ultimately it wants to use art to change the place of black people in society and to that extent is a quasi-political organization.

At some unspecified date another issue, perhaps better provision for pensioners, may take precedence. In the meantime there is little being done for those who would like to see GLA's enthusiastic support for a theatre, such as the Almeida in Islington, where a white middle-class audience has not preceded artistic excellence.

Vibert says GLA is democratic because its policies are clearly stated and open for public debate. But, although funded by the Arts Council, the British Film Institute and the London boroughs, it is ruled by an executive in which local authority representatives are in a minority. London councils could go tomorrow and the radical left hegemony would be maintained.

Nor is Lake Ritzmer, secretary-general of the Arts Council — who met Vibert this week after six unsuccessful attempts to reach him on the phone — empowered to replace the executive. Though relations between the two bodies are strained, not least over the Almeida and how GLA should interpret the Arts Council's own commitments to minorities, it is improbable that the Council would use its sanction and withdraw GLA's grant.

At GLA's budget meeting on Tuesday, there was much self-congratulation over the "integrity" of its complicated assessment process. Yet there were sufficient doubts about it for the executive to refer back the controversial recommendation to cut off the Academy of Indian Dance and for Jatinder Verma to resign as chairman of the black arts committee over the assessment of black organizations.

The British Theatre Association claims that a single comment at the performing arts committee overruled advice to continue its grant. The same committee voted no fewer than seven times to arrive at its cut in funding for the Playwrights Co-operative — and then changed its mind again.

The executive was subjected to intense lobbying to challenge some of the more opaque recommendations. Yet in practice it could not reject without jeopardizing the whole grants package. Its appeals committee in May is likely to be faced with quite a lot of work.

TV PREVIEW

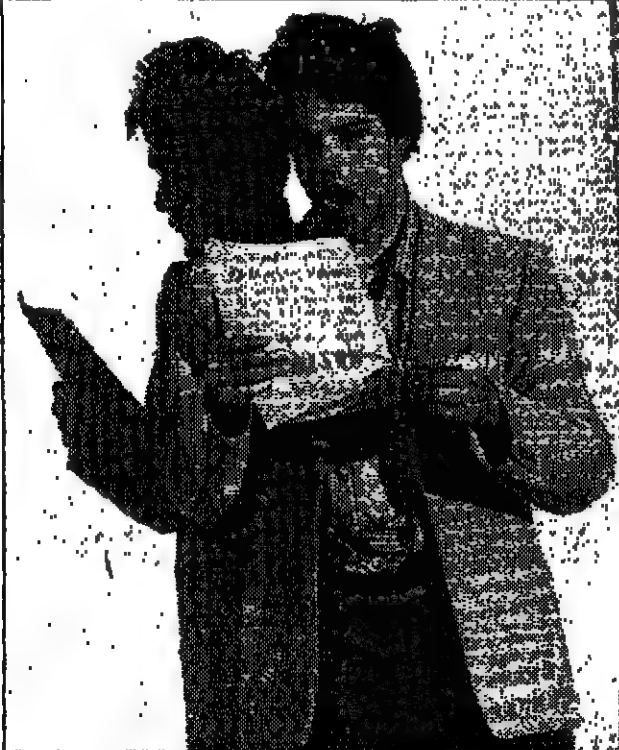
Osborne scores in video

Electrification of the Soviet Union BBC2, tonight

Late-night Channel 4 viewers may recall the "video operas" emanating from the New York avant-garde of a decade ago. Their prime characteristics were mediocre, minimal music, baffling non-stories and an adventurous use of the video medium.

Nigel Osborne's music for The Electrification of the Soviet Union rises way above all that: it is probably his best score and certainly his most approachable, both in its Prokofiev-like ruggedness and its surprisingly attractive lyrical interludes. But this BBC TV film of the Osborne and Craig Raine opera, commissioned there last October and returning this summer, does have that familiar video-opera feel: the cleverer the images you see, the less sure you become of what on earth the thing is about.

For although The Electrification is set before and after the Russian Revolution, as viewed obliquely through a Boris Pasternak novella about a poet recalling his brief affair with a young governess, the



Remarkable performance: Omar Ebrahim as the lover-poet

action is so splintered and enigmatic, and the stage situations so stylized, that it almost loses its historical context altogether.

It is really placed in an all-purpose "Kafka nightmare" world in which characters, dislocated from family and even from the basic love impulse, cling to walls that slither away from them while trying to make some sense of their own, warped particle of reality.

The production, by young American director Peter Sellers, tends either to evoke the frenzy, hysteria of the madhouse or the stillness of the morgue. Scenes can last as lit-

tle as 10 seconds, and no time is spent on conventional matters like establishing characters or setting.

In other words, viewers must work hard. On the other hand, some remarkable performances from a young cast (particularly Omar Ebrahim as the poet and Elizabeth Laurence as the governess) do hold the attention throughout. Elgar Howarth conducts.

The title, incidentally, is half of a Lenin quotation. But do not expect the opera to tell you anything about power stations.

Richard Morrison

Mysteries from the master

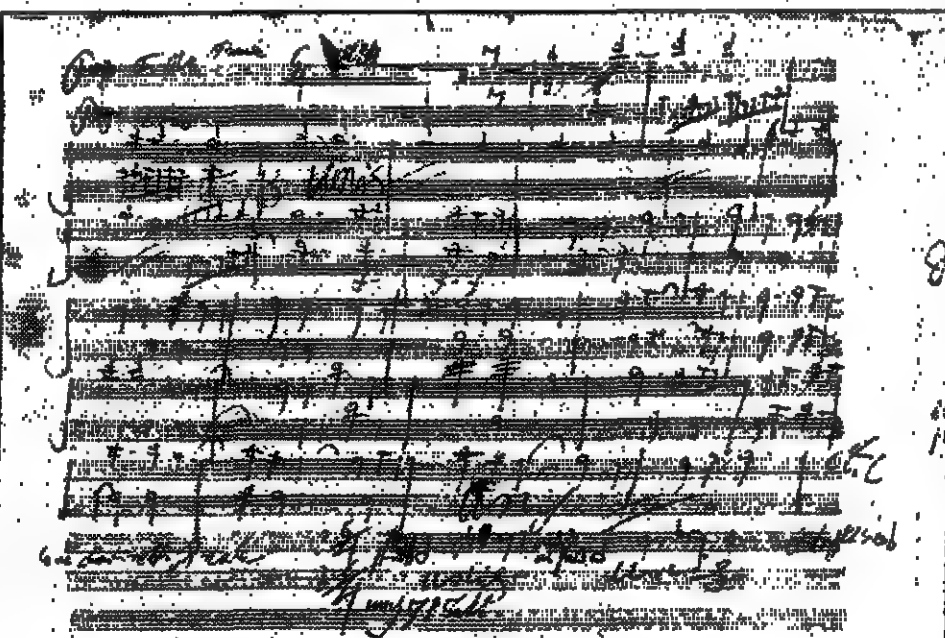
Stephen Pettitt looks behind the sale of two Beethoven manuscripts at Sotheby's

Going under the hammer at Sotheby's on May 6 are two hitherto unknown Beethoven manuscripts. The provenance of neither has been disclosed, but both are of importance in contributing to our knowledge of how details in two of the composer's masterpieces were finalized, and as such they are remarkable discoveries.

The first is a sheet of four pages containing a list of revisions, alterations and corrections, in no particular order, to the first, second and last movements of the Ninth Symphony. It is written in Beethoven's untidy scrawl in brown ink and pencil, though there are some clearer annotations by Beethoven's copyist, Ferdinand Wollank.

The heading to the sheet is somewhat circumspect, translating as "possible alterations". But the manuscript provides some vital information. It includes a revision of the bassoon parts for the Finale's great double fugue, additional phrase and dynamic markings and accidentals, the substitution of 6/4 time for the original 3/2 in the last movement, and a note about observations repeats in the Scherzo's da capo.

None of these corrections appears in the work's autograph, now in the Deutsche



Scrawled corrections from Beethoven and Wollank to the "Ode to Joy", finale of the Ninth

Staatsbibliothek in East Berlin. All, however, are incorporated in the first printing, which Schott published in August 1826.

Stephen Roe, of Sotheby's, thinks that the sheet probably corrects two intermediate sources: the score, now in the British Library, which Beethoven sent to the Royal Philharmonic Society, the work's commissioners, after its first performance in 1824, and the text from which the work was to be printed, now in the Staatsbibliothek at Mainz, which contains corrections made in December 1824 and January 1825 by Wollank.

At roughly the same time,

Beethoven wrote to the RPS about corrections being made to its score, and the list he sent with his letter is also predominantly in Wollank's hand. Both sets of corrections coincide remarkably with the list in this manuscript.

It appears that Wollank copied both his list for the RPS score and the corrections he made to the printer's working manuscript from this piece of paper, which thus confirms Beethoven's intentions beyond doubt.

What the sums in Beethoven's hand on the verso of folio two are, however, remains a charming mystery.

The other new Beethoven

source is a sketch-leaf for the slow movement of the "Hammerklavier" Sonata, again in an untidy hand and in brown ink with pencilled markings, and with a fold suggesting that it might have been fitted into Beethoven's pocket.

Some of the material is identifiable from the finished work, some not. But the importance of this find lies in the fact that no other substantial sketches and no autograph manuscripts of the "Hammerklavier" (1817-18) are known.

Sotheby's expects £60,000 to £100,000 for the Ninth Symphony corrections and £20,000 to £30,000 for the "Hammerklavier" sketches.

Awe in a vacuum

LS/Knussen Queen Elizabeth Hall

The Barbican's "celebration of British music" moved across the Thames on Thursday, but lured so few people that the celebratory note was rather muted. This was said when the programme included so much showy music: Colin Matthews' virtuosic stunner Sans Dance, and Birtwistle's Verses for Ensembles especially. It is not easy to strike awe in a vacuum of empty seats.

The Matthews suffered most with dulled colours and a sense that all the activity was happening somewhere in the middle distance. The Birtwistle rose above the circumstances with Philip Eastop's horn calls and the brilliant trumpet duets of John Wallace and Simon Ferguson. This splendidly rich, odd performance, conducted by Oliver Knussen, reached a peak of

CONCERTS

tightly drawn extravagance in Michael Collins's knife-like E flat clarinet solo and in the extraordinary clogged helices from the brass that followed.

There were also two pieces by composers still under 30: Simon Holt's... era madrugada and Rupert Bawden's Le Livre de Faurel. Holt's atmosphere of soft dawn light and sharp menace was well conveyed, the fuzzy grey sounds of a mixed septet making room for John Alley's flamboyant piano solo.

Bawden, better known as a string player, conducted his own piece, which apparently is some kind of halfway stage between the original moral allegory and a ballet version for Munich in 1990. His use of soprano and mezzo soloists (Eileen Hulse and Mary King) evokes the memory of Davis's Leopardi Fragments. However, Bawden's music is altogether more innocent, being brightly colourful with lean textures bringing a lightness.

Paul Griffiths

Another virgin

Sixteen/Christophers St John's

Last year, in the journal Early Music, the musicologist Graham Dixon posed a fundamental question about Monteverdi's Vespers of 1610. Have we been wrongly assuming that its dedication — "Della Beata Vergine" — referred to Mary, when in fact it was intended to honour another virgin altogether: Barbara, patron saint of the Gonzagas, for whom Monteverdi worked in Mantua?

Not the most pressing dilemma facing modern man, perhaps, but still something that crucially affects how historically aware performers tackle this splendid but problematical music. So on Thursday night, the Vespers were reconstructed according to Dixon's theory.

Acres of plainchant, per-

taining to Barbara's good works, were interpolated between familiar polyphonic glories. So was a sumptuous Palestrina motet, unknown to me, "Gaudere Barbara". Some pithy Mantuan instrumental pieces also made an appearance. And the evening commenced not with the expected Orfeo fanfares of "Domine in adiutorium" but with an ornate organ improvisation.

The Sixteen Choir and Orchestra, directed by Harry Christophers, took a robust, full-blooded view of the big numbers. The dynamic level could have been varied more adventurously, perhaps, and the cross-rhythms needed more dance-like handling.

But the solo singing was often commendably supple, the tenor Neil MacKenzie giving a particularly intense account of "Nigra sum".

It was an excellent idea to consign all the plainchant to a well-drilled platoon of four tenors, who sang nothing else. Less happily conceived were some of Christophers' breathless speeds for the fast passagework.

Richard Morrison

From Tuesday

RIK MAYALL JOHN SESSIONS
STEPHEN FRY JOHN GORDON SINCLAIR
SARAH BERGER PAUL MOONEY

THE COMMON PURSUIT
Written and directed by SIMON GRAY

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THE WEEK AHEAD



BOOKS

OZ ROOTS: Peter Carey's new novel, *Oscar and Lucinda*, explores the twin Australian passions, gambling and egalitarian irreverence. Oscar finances his career through Oriol into Holy Orders by a genius for gambling, and emigrates to Sydney. En voyage he meets Lucinda, Australian heiress with a passion for glass (and gambling), and their extraordinary adventure takes off. It is a big book, with a large cast; a funny, bizarre, love story with an unsatisfactory denouement. Published by Faber, price £10.95, on Monday.



CONCERTS

MUTI'S MASS: Riccardo Muti conducts the London Philharmonic Chorus and Orchestra in the UK premiere of a Mass by Cherubini. It was written in 1819, intended for the coronation of Louis XVIII but for obvious reasons was not used. It lay undiscovered until 1867, and only now has it been published in a modern critical edition. Also on the programme is Beethoven's Piano Concerto No 1 with the distinguished Kristian Zimerman as soloist. Royal Festival Hall (01-928 3191, cc 01-928 8800), 7.30pm on Tuesday.



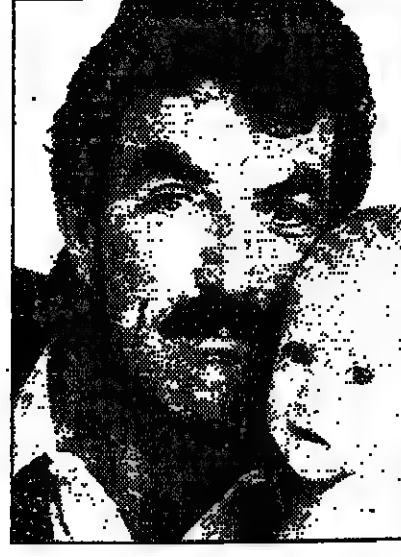
THEATRE

DUNN AGAIN: Georgina Hale, who was nominated for Best Comedy Performance in Neil Dunn's *Steaming*, is one of the principals in the writer's first new play since *The Little Heroine*, which has its premiere this week. She plays the mother of Esther (Katharine Schlesinger), whose struggle against drug dependency gives the piece, said to contain strong language, its punning title. Michael Smith plays the father and Ian Watt Smith directs. Nuffield Theatre, Southampton (0703 671771). Opens Thursday.



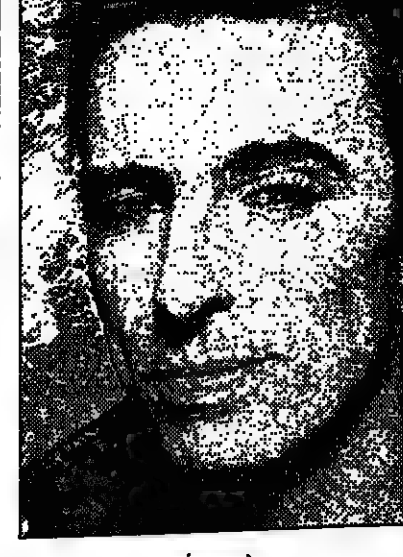
GALLERIES

LIVING STONE: Bernard Matemera's *Blind Head* is one of 60 figurative stone carvings from Zimbabwe featured in an exhibition which sets out to show that modern African sculpture is not a pale shadow of historic tribal art, but a continuation of tradition. As well as new, previously unexhibited, work some pieces are from British national and private collections - including six lent by zoologist David Attenborough. Sculpture Court, Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2 (01-638 4141). From Friday.



CINEMA

MATERNAL MALES: Tom Selleck, usually seen in rugged pursuits, meets his greatest screen challenge in *Three Men and a Cradle* (PG), a Hollywood remake of a runaway French hit. He plays one of three confirmed bachelors faced with the problems of buying baby food, changing diapers, and wiping the little gurgler's "diddies". Selleck's companions are Steve Guttenberg and Ted Danson. Leonard Nimoy, making a nifty jump from Mr Spock to Dr Spock, directs. Warner Bros End (01-439 0791), from Friday.



ROCK

MR MACABRE: Alice Cooper, the man who so inspired Salvador Dali that he made a cream-cake sculpture of the singer's brain, starts a tour of Britain which will premiere a spanking new catalogue of malign pantomime routines. Whether the show incorporates the notorious guillotine climax or not, Cooper is bound to satisfy a new generation of rock fans that has been weaned on macabre fantasy as part and parcel of heavy metal rock. Alice Cooper plays at Edinburgh Playhouse (031 557 2590) on Friday and Saturday, April 2.

THEATRE LONDON

DANGER: MEMORY: Arthur Miller double bill, *I Can't Remember Anything* and *Clara*, receiving British premiere, directed by Jack Gold, with John Bennett, Betsy Blair, Paul Rogers, Stephen Hays and Sarah Keller. Hampstead Theatre (01-722 8301). Previews from Fri. Opens Apr 6.

EXIT ENTRANCE: Aidan Mathews's play, direct from a success at two different stages of their life together, Ben Barnes directs Ingrid Craigie, Malcolm Douglas, Deans Hawthorne and Joan O'Hara. Donmar Warehouse (01-240 9230). Preview Mon. Opens Tues.

FAUST: Simon Callow, directed by David Freeman in a new translation of Goethe's masterpiece, by Robert David MacDonald. In two parts. Lyric, Hammersmith (01-741 2311). Part One previews from Wed. Opens Apr 6.

THE FIFTEEN STREETS: Dramatization of a Catherine Cookson novel, set on Tyneside docks in 1910. Adapted by Rob Biddiscombe. Wimbledon Theatre (01-540 0362). Opens Tues.

KING'S RHAPSODY: Michael Paterson's adaptation of Ivor Novello's musical, with David McAllister, Leigh Samuels, Rosamund Shelley and Diana Fairfax, directed by Kim Grant. Chichester Theatre, Bromley (01-480 6877). Opens Thurs.

ROBESON - SONG OF FREEDOM: London debut of Andy Rasthleigh's play, in Oxford Stage Company production, Leon Herbert and Vicki Licorish. 12 songs. Young Vic (01-928 6363). Preview Mon. Opens Tues.

TWELFTH NIGHT: Transfer from Stratford, directed by Bill Alexander, with Harriet Walter, Donald Sumpter, Roger Allam, John Carlisle. Barbican (01-638 8881). Previews from Thurs. Opens Apr 8.

OUT OF TOWN

BOLTON: Waving: Monstrous Regiment present a new early comedy by Carol Bayan. Octagon (0204 20861). Opens Tues.

CARDIFF: Doodad - The Miracle Plays '88: Tony Harrison's version of the Wakefield Mystery Plays, with a cast of more than 100. St David's Hall (0222 371236). From Thurs to Apr 2.

DERBY: The Dark at the Top of the Stairs: William Inge family drama, directed by Annie Castledine. Playhouse (0332 383275). Opens Thurs.

STAFFORD-UPON-AVON: The Constant Couple: George Farquhar comedy opens the new season, in a production by Roger Michell. Swan Theatre (0789 256223). Previews from Wed. Opens Apr 5.

WATFORD: Winter in the Morning: World premiere of commissioned Jacqui Shapiro play with music with Susannah Harker and Nick Wilton. Palace (0223 35455). Previews from Thurs. Opens Apr 5.

CONCERTS

FLOR FLORISHES: The LSO is conducted by Claudio Peveri. Flor in Beethoven's Egmont Overture and Symphony No 7 while Israel Margalit solos in Mozart's Piano Concerto K 491. Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2 (01-638 8755, cc 01-638 8891). Tomorrow, 7.30pm.

WORD-WATCHING
Answers from page 24
FURPHY (b) A lavine rumour; Australian slang for a storm; a technical error, probably electric.
HALOITE (c) Easily catchable, from the Greek *halos*, root *hals*, I catch, hence *halite*.

ALKAN CENTENARY: Marking the exact 100th anniversary of the death of Alkan, the extraordinary French composer and pianist, Ronald Smith, piano, James Clark, violin, and Moray Welsh, cello, perform his three major chamber works, the Grand Duo, Cello Sonata and Trio. Wigmore Hall, 38 Wigmore Street, London W1 (01-935 2141). Tues, 7.30pm.

SEAMAN'S SHOW: The RPO is conducted by Christopher Seaman in Dvorak's Carnival Overture, Rimsky-Korsakov's Scheherazade, and in Grieg's Piano Concerto the soloist is Abdel Rahman el Bacha. Barbican Centre, Tues, 7.45pm.

FROM NOVOSIBIRSK: The USSR Philharmonic Orchestra of Novosibirsk is heard in an all-Tchaikovsky programme with the Symphony No 6, movements from the Serenade Op 48 and the Violin Concerto in which the soloist is Igor Stravinsky. Arnold Katz conducts. Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 3191, cc 01-928 8800). Wed, 7.30pm.

JUDD/PHILHARMONIA: James Judd conducts the Philharmonia Orchestra in Mozart's Nozze di Figaro Overture, Symphony No 40, Schubert's Symphony No 8 "Unfinished" and in Beethoven's Piano Concerto No 5 "Emperor" the soloist is Jean-Louis Steuermann. Barbican Centre, Wed, 7.45pm.

GROVES/RPO: Paul Tollerfield is the soloist in Dvorak's Cello concerto with the RPO under Sir Charles Groves. Later comes Holst's The Planets. Royal Festival Hall, Thurs, 7.30pm.

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE: Last performance of *Tosca* with Grace Bumbury and Giuseppe Giacomini on Wednesday; and *Un Ballo in Maschera* draws the end of its run on Monday and Tuesday, now with Piero Cappuccilli and Anna Tomowa-Sintow. All start at 7.30pm. Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-240 1066).

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA: Last chance, not to be missed, to see the outstanding *Billy Budd* on Tuesday at 7.30pm. Ian Judge's colourful revival of *Cav and Pag* continues tonight and Thursday at 7.30pm. Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (01-836 3161).

WELSH NATIONAL OPERA: New production of Strauss's *Salome* by young French director André Engel features Stephanie Sundine in the title role, with Robert Tear, Della Jones and Phillip Joll. Sir Charles Mackerras conducts. Grand Theatre, Swansea (0792 475715). Tues 8pm.

OPERA NORTH: Welcome revival of Graham Vick's production of Janacek's *Katya Kabanova* with Edwina Barry, Louise Winter and Edmund Barham. Grand Theatre, Leeds (0532 458351). Tonight 7.30pm.

THE BRITISH SOCIETY OF PAINTERS: A week-long festival of more than 1,000 paintings featuring works by popular artists like David Shepherd and Terence Cuneo. King's Hall and Winter Gardens, Hildes (0943 609075). From today.

THE EXPERIENCE OF LANDSCAPE: Fine British landscape painting and photography, from Duncan Grant to Paul Nash and John Lavery, from the Art Council's collection. Cooper Gallery, Barmsey (0222 242905). From today.

EDOUARD MANET (1832-1883): A collection of etchings, some of which were designed to popularize the polemical French painter's work. Bolton Museum and Art Gallery (0204 22311). From today.

DAVID MACH: New works by the controversial Scottish sculptor whose massive *Polaris* submarine made of old tyres was set on fire in 1983. Tate Gallery, London SW1 (01-821 1313). From Mon.

THE SELF-PORTRAIT: A work each by 60 contemporary artists, from Anthony Caro to Amanda Faulkner. Collins Gallery, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow (041 552 4400). From Wed.

RADIO

See Lawley (above) takes over as the new presenter of *Desert Island Discs* and promises a style of interviewing somewhere between that of the show's inventor, Roy Plomley, and the more trenchant Michael Parkinson. Her first castaway is the veteran politician Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone: visiting the desert island in future programmes are Arthur Scargill, Mary Archer and Neil Kinnock. Radio 4, tomorrow, 12.15-12.55pm.

SUCH IS LIFE: Six-part series of reminiscences by the great radio comedian Al Read, recorded shortly before his death last September. Radio 2, Wed, 10.15-10.30pm.

A LONG WAVE GOODYE: Margaret Howard, Gordon Clough and Jenni Murray play themselves in *La Symphe* and *Three Dances* to Japanese Music. Sadler's Wells Theatre (01-278 8916).

ROSEMARY BUTCHER: *Touch The Earth* with music by Michael Nyman. Birmingham Museum (021 235 2834). Today 7.30pm.

NORTHERN BALLET: The Lowry Ballet *A Simple Man* with the Stravinsky Suite *Isabelle* and Michael Pinter's *Memoir Imaginaire*. Theatre Royal, Bath (0225 65065). Today.

Q.E.D. Can sports psychologist John Syer improve the performance of Queen Park Rangers football club? Monday and Tuesday, now with Piero Cappuccilli and Anna Tomowa-Sintow. All start at 7.30pm. Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-240 1066).

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WALKS

CITY OF YORK: meet today, Exhibition Square, 10.15am, free (also tomorrow).

HAUNTED LONDON: meet today, Monument tube, 2pm, £3.

HIDDEN CURIOS AND COURTYARDS OF OLD LONDON: meet today, St Paul's tube, 11am, £2.50 (also April 2).

VILLAGE LONDON - HAMPTSTEAD: meet tomorrow, Hampstead tube, 11.15am, £3.

LONDON AFTER THE GREAT FIRE: meet tomorrow, Museum of London, 2.30pm, £3.

ROYAL BALLET: David Bintley's new *Penguin Carle* is on the bill at Manchester today (matinee and evening) with Ashton's *Sinfonia Variations* and Robbins's *The Concert*, then at Covent Garden on Tuesday with Balanchine's *Serenade* and *Rugrats*. Palace Theatre, Manchester (061 236 9222). Royal Ballet, Covent Garden (01-240 1066).

LONDON CITY BALLET: The company's week in London ends today with matinee and evening performances of *La Symphe* and *Three Dances* to Japanese Music. Sadler's Wells Theatre (01-278 8916).

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NORTHERN BALLET: The Lowry Ballet *A Simple Man* with the Stravinsky Suite *Isabelle* and Michael Pinter's *Memoir Imaginaire*. Theatre Royal, Bath (0225 65065). Today.

Q.E.D. Can sports psychologist John Syer improve the performance of Queen Park Rangers football club? Monday and Tuesday, now with Piero Cappuccilli and Anna Tomowa-Sintow. All start at 7.30pm. Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-240 1066).

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA: Last chance, not to be missed, to see the outstanding *Billy Budd* on Tuesday at 7.30pm. Ian Judge's colourful revival of *Cav and Pag* continues tonight and Thursday at 7.30pm. Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (01-836 3161).

WELSH NATIONAL OPERA: New production of Strauss's *Salome* by young French director André Engel features Stephanie Sundine in the title role, with Robert Tear, Della Jones and Phillip Joll. Sir Charles Mackerras conducts. Grand Theatre, Swansea (0792 475715). Tues 8pm.

OPERA NORTH: Welcome revival of Graham Vick's production of Janacek's *Katya Kabanova* with Edwina Barry, Louise Winter and Edmund Barham. Grand Theatre, Leeds (0532 458351). Tonight 7.30pm.

THE BRITISH SOCIETY OF PAINTERS: A week-long festival of more than 1,000 paintings featuring works by popular artists like David Shepherd and Terence Cuneo. King's Hall and Winter Gardens, Hildes (0943 609075). From today.

THE EXPERIENCE OF LANDSCAPE: Fine British landscape painting and photography, from Duncan Grant to Paul Nash and John Lavery, from the Art Council's collection. Cooper Gallery, Barmsey (0222 242905). From today.

EDOUARD MANET (1832-1883): A collection of etchings, some of which were designed to popularize the polemical French painter's work. Bolton Museum and Art Gallery (0204 22311). From today.

DAVID MACH: New works by the controversial Scottish sculptor whose massive *Polaris* submarine made of old tyres was set on fire in 1983. Tate Gallery, London SW1 (01-821 1313). From Mon.

THE SELF-PORTRAIT: A work each by 60 contemporary artists, from Anthony Caro to Amanda Faulkner. Collins Gallery, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow (041 552 4400). From Wed.

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FILMS

NUTCRACKER - THE MOTION PICTURE (U): Tchaikovsky's score danced by Pacific Northwest Ballet, imaginatively filmed by Carroll Ballard with designs by Maurice Sendak. ICA Cinema (01-930 3647), from Fri.

PETER BROOK SEASON: The cinema output of theatre's great luminary is surveyed throughout April: includes *Lord of the Flies* and *Marat/Sade*. National Film Theatre (01-928 3232), from Fri.

JOE HENDERSON/ANDREW HILL QUARTET: Mouth-watering combination of two of the finest exponents of modern tenor and piano. Bass Clef, London N1 (01-729 2476) Mon-Tues.

DOC CHEATHAM: A powerful if under-rated trumpeter. Pizza Express, London W1 (01-439 8771) Wed-Thurs.

THE IAINS: Quirky quartet led by Loose Tubes saxophonist Iain Ballamy and keyboard player Django Bates. Four Bars Inn, Cardiff (0222 374982) Tues.

GEORGINA FAME: After recent Gershwin and Hoagy Carmichael projects, the singer takes up a week's residency. Ronnie Scott's Club, London W1 (01-439 0747) Mon-Sat.

THE SORROW AND THE PITY (1970): First part of Marcel Ophüls's powerful documentary about the France under the German Occupation. BBC2, Fri, 7.15-9.15pm.

THE DRESSER (1983): First TV showing for Ronald Harwood's story of a flamboyant actor-manager (Albert Finney) taking *King Lear* round wartime Britain. BBC2, Fri, 10.40pm-12.35am.

ASWAD: After 13 years on the circuit, they've reached No.1 with their first hit single. Tonight, Royal Court, Liverpool (061 709 4321); Mon, Rock City, Nottingham (0602 412544); Tues, Hummingbird, Birmingham (021 236 4236); Wed, Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone (0303 54895); Thurs, Centre, Slough (0753 21256); and Fri, Astoria, London (01-430 0403).

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FILMS ON TV

The team of writer Graham Greene and director Carol Reed which created *The Third Man* was previously responsible for a less celebrated, but arguably more perfect film, *The Fallen Idol* (1948). Ralph Richardson (above) plays the butler at a London embassy, suspected of murdering his mistress; Bobby Henrey is the young friend whose attempts to protect his idol nearly land him in disaster. BBC2, Tuesday, 9.10-10.35pm.

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SATURDAY

TELEVISION AND RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear and Peter Daville

SUNDAY

Ministry to give Trident evidence

It is an axiom of the cinema that re-makes are never as good as the originals, though when the second bite is taken by a director as idiosyncratic as Luis Buñuel the result is likely to be interesting to say the least. In 1964, Buñuel adapted Octave Mirbeau's novel, *The Diary of a Chambermaid*, previously filmed in 1945, during his sojourn in Hollywood, by Jean Renoir. Predictably, the Buñuel version, though drawing on the same basic plot, was completely different in mood and emphasis. There is a chance to compare the two in The Film Club (BBC2, 9.55pm-1.10am). Updating the story from the 19th cen-

CHOICE

tury to the 1920s, Buñuel cast Jeanne Moreau as the maid who goes to work for a bourgeois family and uncovers a typical Buñuel world of the bizarre and surreal. The Renoir version, which keeps to the original period, is one of the director's darker films, though given a superficial gaiety by the extrovert performance of Paulette Goddard. Though not quite vintage Renoir or vintage Buñuel, the films offer a fascinating insight into two of the cinema's greatest artists.

Peter Waymark



Jeanne Moreau and George Grét in Luis Buñuel's *The Diary of a Chambermaid*, BBC2, 9.55pm



Salman Rushdie: his anatomy of India, *The Riddle of Midnight*, is screened on Channel 4, 8.45pm

CHOICE

In *The Riddle of Midnight* (Channel 4, 8.45pm) the writer Salman Rushdie returns in documentary form to the theme of his prize-winning novel, *Midnight's Children*, and attempts an anatomy of India after 40 years of independence. The method of his inquiry is simple, encapsulating the hopes, fears, achievements and prejudices of 800 million Indians in a small number of contrasting examples. Rushdie picks out an adventure in the Himalayas, a Bombay yuppified and a Bombay pavement dweller, a militant Hindu fundamentalist and a Communist peasant, a tailor and cloth seller who live

virtually identical lives except that they are victims of the religious divide. But the questions he poses are far from simple, touching on the degree to which a vast country of conflicting cultures and warring faiths can be called a nation at all. Rushdie's journey of inquiry is long and sometimes diffuse, but always informed by the novelist's insight. He does not pretend to supply easy answers but he does produce an illuminating, and ultimately rather pessimistic portrait of the land which, in Nehru's words, awoke to life and freedom at the stroke of the midnight hour on August 15 1947.

P.W.

BBC1

- 6.45 Open University.
- 6.55 Saturday Starts Here with Corners (r). 8.40 *Midnight's Children* (r). 9.00 *Kislayur*.
- 9.30 Going Live! Includes guests Mike Gating and Sally Connolly 12.12 Weather.
- 12.15 Grandstand introduced by Desmond Lynam. The line-up is (subject to alteration): 12.30 Football Focus: 12.45 Boxing from York Hall, 1.05 News, 1.10, 1.35 and 1.40 *Rugby League*: a preview and coverage of Halifax v Hull; 1.20 Athletics: the World Cross Country Championships from Auckland; 1.40, 2.10 and 2.45 Racing from Newbury; 1.55 and 2.25 Ice Hockey: Montreal v Quebec; 3.50 Football latest; 4.40 Final score.
- 5.05 News and weather. 5.15 Regional news/ weather.
- 5.30 First Class. Inter-school competition. Amthorpe, South Yorkshire, meet Montagu from Kettering.
- 5.45 *Mr F* (r). Among those for whom Jimmy Savile fixed it is a mother whose river trip to Greenwich turned into a Mediterranean cruise. (Ceefax)
- 5.50 *Film: And Then There Were None* (1974) starring Oliver Reed and Richard Attenborough. Thriller, based on Agatha Christie's *Ten Little Indians*. Directed by Peter Collinson. (Ceefax)
- 7.55 *Rob Says* (Continuity). A comedy sketch show.
- 8.45 News, sport and weather.
- 9.00 *Cagney and Lacey*. The two women police officers find themselves back at their old police academy. (Ceefax)
- 9.50 World Championship Sports Special: featuring the WBA world flyweight championship bout between Fidel Bassa and Dave McAuley in Belfast; and ladies' world figure skating action from Budapest.
- 11.30 *Film: Found Money* (1983) starring Dick Van Dyke. A made-for-television story of a retired-early bank clerk who decides to use his inside knowledge to syphon-out dormant accounts to give the money to the needy. Directed by Bill Persky.
- 1.00am Weather.

Radio 1

MW (medium wave). Stereo on FM (see below). News on the hour until 1.00pm, then at 2.00, 3.30, 5.30, 7.30, 9.30 and 12.00 midnight.

6.00am Nicky Campbell 8.00am Adrian John 10.00 Mike Reed 1.00pm Alan Jones 2.00 The Stereo Session. Includes 2.30, 3.00, 4.00, 5.00, 6.00, 7.00, 8.00, 9.00, 10.00, 11.00, 12.00. American Chart show 6.30-7.30 in Concert (featuring The Communards) 7.30 Robbie Vincent 10.00-10.30 Mark Goodier. FM

Radio 2 1.00am As Radio 1 1.30am As Radio 1 1.50am As Radio 1 2.00am As Radio 1 2.30am As Radio 1 3.00am As Radio 1 3.30am As Radio 1 4.00am As Radio 1 4.30am As Radio 1 5.00am As Radio 1 5.30am As Radio 1 6.00am As Radio 1 6.30am As Radio 1 7.00am As Radio 1 7.30am As Radio 1 8.00am As Radio 1 8.30am As Radio 1 9.00am As Radio 1 9.30am As Radio 1 10.00am As Radio 1 10.30am As Radio 1 11.00am As Radio 1 11.30am As Radio 1 12.00am As Radio 1 12.30am As Radio 1 1.00am As Radio 1 1.30am As Radio 1 1.50am As Radio 1 2.00am As Radio 1 2.30am As Radio 1 3.00am As Radio 1 3.30am As Radio 1 4.00am As Radio 1 4.30am As Radio 1 5.00am As Radio 1 5.30am As Radio 1 6.00am As Radio 1 6.30am As Radio 1 7.00am As Radio 1 7.30am As Radio 1 8.00am As Radio 1 8.30am As Radio 1 9.00am As Radio 1 9.30am As Radio 1 10.00am As Radio 1 10.30am As Radio 1 11.00am As Radio 1 11.30am As Radio 1 12.00am As Radio 1 12.30am As Radio 1 1.00am As Radio 1 1.30am As Radio 1 1.50am As Radio 1 2.00am As Radio 1 2.30am 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Systems Designers in £72m rights issue to buy Scicon



SD-Scicon eighth in the world: Philip Swinstead (left) and Warren Werblow, yesterday

By Alison Eadie

Systems Designers, the computer software company, is calling on shareholders for £72 million in a three-for-four rights issue to fund the £82.5 million acquisition of Scicon Group, the software subsidiary of British Petroleum.

The enlarged company will be called SD-Scicon and will rank as the eighth largest systems integration software company in the world and the second largest European company after the French-based CAP Gemini Sogeti.

British Aerospace and its pension fund are taking up their full allocation of shares to maintain their holding at 25

per cent. BAE has agreed not to sell its shares for two years, nor raise its stake above 29.9 per cent.

Systems, whose chairman is Mr Philip Swinstead, also posted a 64 per cent increase in pretax profits to £7.4 million in the year to the end of December on turnover 25 per cent higher at £77.1 million. The total dividend was raised to 0.65p from 0.55p.

Scicon, with Mr Warren Werblow as chief executive, is Britain's largest software company. It has traded at a loss in the past three years because it took on large, but unprofitable contracts in order for the business to grow quickly. In 1987 it made a trading loss of £10.135 after providing

£11,600 against losses on contracts.

BP has taken over responsibility for the largest such project and provisions have been made in the 1987 accounts to cover all other predicted cost over-runs.

Systems has ambitions to become a world leader and expects to be making further large acquisitions, although not for at least two years. It plans to sell off Scicon's American operations with the civil software division likely to be disposed of this year and the defence consultancy and vehicle emission testing service business later.

Systems said there was very little overlap between its business and Scicon.

Crisis talks on Gatt chip ban

By Colin Narkewicz

Japanese and American officials got down to urgent talks in Washington yesterday to find ways round a ruling by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade that their bilateral accord on microchips is illegal.

Japan was also expected to initiate early talks on the microchip issue with the European Economic Community, which regards the 1986 Semiconductor Trade Agreement as a flagrant case of price-fixing between two of its major trading partners.

The British Government indicated that it warmly welcomed the Gatt ruling as a move towards a freer world market in memory chips.

The ruling, made by a special disputes panel, came in response to a complaint from the European Commission made soon after the accord was struck between Tokyo and Washington, ostensibly as a means of preventing Japanese producers from dumping.

Mr Willy de Clercq, the EEC External Relations Commissioner, who regards the pact as a threat to European competitiveness in vital new areas of technology, expects the ruling to be given full Gatt backing on May 4.

While ruling that the accord violated parts of Gatt's free trade rules by agreeing to keep prices high on three markets, the panel did not uphold Brussels' complaint that US-produced microchip exports to Japan had been afforded favoured treatment.

The ruling appears to tackle the question of Japanese price monitoring to three markets, intended to avoid low-price Japanese chips entering the US market.

Tokyo undertook in 1986 not only to improve access to its market for US chip-makers, but pledged to avoid selling below cost on the American market or in other markets where the two countries were in competition.

The recent world shortage of microchips has led to the US electronics industry increasing pressure on Washington for guarantees that chip supplies were not being restricted by the bilateral arrangement.

These shortages have been reflected in higher prices and importers in Europe and other regions have attributed this to the pact between the two.

The US, however, despite calls from segments of its own industry for a renegotiation of the accord, is unlikely to relinquish the right to prevent dumping.

Time the Government and Bank got their act together

Yesterday's trade figures, which far exceeded the City's worst estimates, have re-awakened fears about the balance of payments. Whether the current account deficit of £720 million will later be seen as in large part a clerical error does not matter. With Wall Street transfixed by the thought that history may repeat itself—as in the Great Crash the second wave of selling begins on the 159th day after the first deluge—the London market is in no mood for contrary thinking.

There are also confusing cross-currents, notably the swirls and eddies from the public clash between the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer over the sterling-market exchange rate. With first Lord Young and then Sir Geoffrey Howe, ambitious



KENNETH FLEET

men both, plunging into the muddy water, it is not surprising that simple City folk are perplexed.

If the balance of payments is on a fast downhill track, neither "expensive" intervention in the foreign exchange market nor lower interest rates will be needed to bring the pound down to a level exporters feel is tolerable. By the same token the lower interest rates that

are not required to keep a soaring pound in check will not raise the tempo of consumer spending and the level of imports. In other words it would help if the Government and the Bank of England got their act together.

Having warned you here a week ago not to be seduced by the fanning of a rising equity market I am not surprised by Thursday's sharp reaction. These are tricky times in which the only certainties are that Britain's growth rate is slowing down, and the speed at which company profits have been accelerating will inevitably drop. Share prices have not yet adjusted to this changed prospect, but barring a second Wall Street bloodbath I suspect the next equilibrium level is not much further down. The question then will be which is the best market to be in?

A golden age for private firms

Among 40 favoured industrialists dining at Downing Street this week, one is unique. He left school and home at 16, worked in Germany and the United States before setting up his own London Management Consultancy at the tender age of 22, and saw his first industrial venture shot from under him in 1975 "when the bank lost its nerve."

He began again, managing an ailing subsidiary of the William Old Group, then losing £1 million on a turnover of £1 million. Four years later the company made a profit of £700,000 on a turnover of £10 million. At this point John Morris exercised his option to buy the other three-quarters of the company—for £800. As an entrepreneur he had come of age, coincidentally in the year Mrs Thatcher came into government.

By the commercially tender age of 41 he has taken the original business, Therm-A-Stor, into third place in the double-glazing industry; built System Glass in five years from nothing into a company making more safety glass than Pilkingtons; and acquired the thriving Best Plastics. The Thermal Securities group has a turnover of £40 million and confers conservatively to a £3 million operating profit. Searching for a model of the enterprise culture the Prime Minister had to look no further than John Morris, who in addition to building a business had also passed the union vitality test: he fought the Transport & General Workers Union up to the House of Lords—and won.

Suppose I must be Mrs T's favourite double-glazing manufacturer if nothing else," he chuckled.

The Morris view of Thatcher, not surprisingly, is equally favourable. "I worked in the US and Germany at my most impressionable; when I came back here at 22 and found it wasn't the same I couldn't believe it. Now it seems to me what I always thought it should have been 20 years ago. It is no longer a disgrace to make money or to be successful," though he does not think that the deep cultural antipathy to industry in this country has changed very much.

"Businessmen take themselves more seriously and they are prepared to resist being put down by all and sundry, but the rest of society cannot believe that people are in industry because it is interesting or challenging or something to take a pride in. We have a higher percentage of entrepreneurs who can build a business to a £2 million turnover than any country in the world, but one of the lowest percentages of entrepreneurs who go from a £2 million to a £25 million business. Bank managers (not one of his favourite species) tell you you are rich—go and buy a farm!"

Chancellors of the Exchequer have a higher rating, even though in 1984 Nigel Lawson hit Therm-A-Stor and the industry with 15 per cent VAT, and this month did the double by removing tax relief from home improvement loans.

"I am told," said Morris, "that I can pay myself bonuses and pay only 5 per cent tax. I personally would pay income tax at 40 per cent but the company would get relief to the tune of 35 per cent. So if you look at the company and myself as an entity the cost of distribution from the company

to me is 5 per cent. Which is better than Jersey. If such treatment brings a few dynamic people back from tax havens it must be good for all of us."

"It's not so much the money; a lot of this is sentiment. As the poem is an expression of love, not the love, the balance sheet is the commercial expression, it isn't the business. It's how people feel when they wake up in the morning. They feel, yes I can go off and have an early heart attack but it will be worthwhile because I will have sacrificed myself for a worthwhile goal!"

The Chancellor's beneficence does not stop at 5 per cent. John Morris continued: "The most tax-efficient way of distributing money from a private company was in capital gains. That certainly is not the case now. As a result of this Budget the value of all private companies has gone up, by at least 20 per cent, now that capital gains tax is the same as your marginal rate of income tax. In future you can take out say a million pounds at 40 per cent and still own the company."

If he had wanted to sell his company, or float in on the stock market, the pressures to do so are now sharply diminished. He is "not specifically driven by making the most money. I've got all the CDs I want." (And, he might have added, the Lutyns house, the ocean racing yacht, the leather-upholstered, twin-engined Italian helicopter and the gleaming Bentley.) He has his sights on making Thermal Securities a £100 million business but he would also like, "at some time, to get involved in a bigger operation." Head hunters take note.

Warning over profits by Macallan

Macallan Glenlivet, the Scottish whisky distiller, made pretax profits in the year to the end of December of £1.6 million against £1.1 million in the previous year. Turnover rose to £7.6 million from £6.4 million.

The company gave a warning that the costs of developing new markets and the increased need to lay down stocks for future sales will continue to restrain profits growth in the medium term.

The total dividend was raised to 4.42p from 3.84p.

Sid 'has no thought of selling Gas shares'

By Rodney Hobson

Sid, the man-in-the-suit shareholder created by the British Gas advertising campaign during privatization, cares enough about his shares to follow their daily progress, but is a little more forgetful about paying the instalments on his shares.

While notices went out this week to remind shareholders that the third and final instalment is due, the Department of Energy conducted market research to test Sid's attitude to his new status as an investor.

The vast majority—83 per cent—claim they are satisfied with their investment and only 6 per cent were dissatisfied. Indeed, the thought of selling had never even crossed the mind of nine out of 10.

One in three claims to check the British Gas share price every day. But one in three had also forgotten that there was a third instalment to pay.

For those who still have not heard, the final instalment of 40p a share is due by 3pm on April 19.

TEMPUS

Lonrho offers yield support — and entertainment value

If investment decisions were based solely on entertainment value, Lonrho would be an outstanding buy. Few groups can rival the stage-managed razzmatazz of a Lonrho annual meeting.

If decisions are to be based on yield considerations, then Lonrho's offering of an historic 7 per cent and a prospective 7.5 per cent yield has merit.

But if earnings potential is the criterion, the shares have question marks over them—at least until there is firmer evidence of how 1988 is progressing.

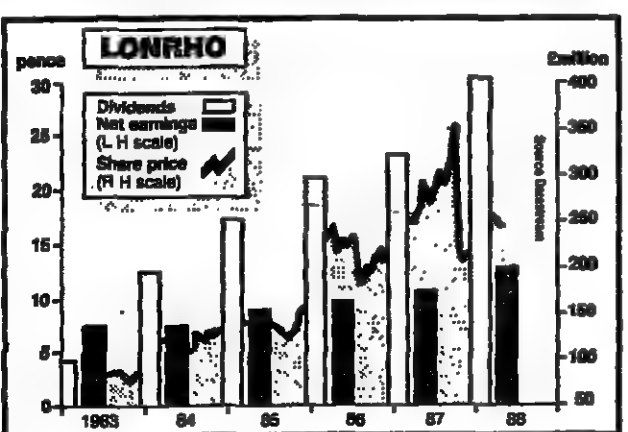
Profits in the year ended September 30 passed the £200 million level after stronger performances by mining and refinery, motor and equipment distribution and by the agriculture interests. But that was last year, and it is the uncertain paths of these particular divisions which beg the question as to how much progress can be made in 1988.

Given its diverse product and geographical spread, currencies and commodity prices will always dog earnings calculations, and because mining formed such a significant part of last year's £200.2 million pretax profit by bringing in £59.1 million, there is investment concern about recent softer metal prices.

It is, however, worth remembering that by-products of its platinum mines could come to Lonrho's rescue this year. Soaring nickel prices and stronger copper prices could well bring its already low costs in mining platinum group metals even lower. And Lonrho is blessed with growing gold interests.

Last year, Lonrho's gold output reached 442,000 ounces. Even though the world gold price may be still looking tired, there is the prospect of a higher attributable production to Lonrho's name.

The £160 million expansion programme over the next five years to raise Ashanti's production in Ghana by 50 per cent is well under way. The Erfdel mine in South Africa, where Lonrho has a 36 per cent stake in association



with Anglo-American Corporation, has started small-scale production and is eventually aiming for 400,000 ounces a year.

There could be negatives from motoring and agriculture interests this year, and tougher manufacturing and trading conditions in Africa could knock sentiment. But for the moment, the yield suggests a hold.

Acre Oil

All has gone quiet at 90 Long Acre, in the West End of London, where both Acre Oil—destined to be Britain's third-biggest independent oil company after Enterprise and Lasso—and Carless, Capel & Leonard have their headquarters, separated only by a few floors.

Acre, the new independent being created from Calor Group's Century Power & Light and SHV's Dyas, is still in danger of having its April 13 stock market launch marred by legal action from Carless.

Carless's chief executive, Ian Chubb, is aggrieved that he is not being offered Acre shares in exchange for his 41.2 per cent interest in Century as the original terms of the spin-off implied. Then he could have taken his chance in the market, selling or buying more, or even accepting SHV's 165p a share offer.

But instead of a renamed Century becoming the quoted vehicle, it is intended that Acre will be floated as a new

holding company which will own Century. Century in turn will take over Dyas, the Dutch group SHV's oil and gas division.

Carless, therefore, will end up with a much-diluted interest in an unquoted subsidiary of Acre. An independent assessment by ERC, the energy consultant, values Century at £114.7 million and Dyas at £185.2 million (after adjusting for debt). On this basis, Carless's interest in Century will be diluted to 15.7 per cent, valued at £47 million.

Carless has been offered cash, but the amount is based on the ERC valuation with which Mr Chubb is not in full agreement. In particular, he believes Century's exploration acreage is worth a lot more than ERC's attributed £6.1 million, and he disputes the use of a 15 per cent nominal discount factor to arrive at the present value of future money flows from oil and gas production.

Tricentral and Britoil, which also employed ERC as a consultant in their takeover defences, used a 12 per cent factor, which yields a higher asset value.

Adjusting for the Carless minority, Acre is worth £253 million, or 150p a share. Yet SHV, one of the architects of the deal, is prepared to offer 165p a share to underpin the float.

SHV, therefore, clearly believes the Acre shares are worth more than ERC's asset

value. And Calor shareholders, who will receive Acre shares in proportion to their Calor holdings, are underwritten at 165p. So it is hard to blame Mr Chubb for holding out for more, too, and he will be working hard for a negotiated settlement over the three weeks leading up to the flotation.

Equities

As the market drifts rudderless, investors are beginning to look at some of the longer-term pointers which are likely to influence the direction of the equity market.

Institutional cashflows are not decisive, because of the element of discretion in how the cash is deployed, but they are important. Last year institutional cashflows were reasonably buoyant at about £23.4 billion.

But the autumn timing of pension fund holidays coincided with significant government privatization calls, culminating in the disastrous BP sell-off.

This is not to argue that a shortage of funds caused last October's crash, but it will have undermined institutions' ability to underpin the market.

This year, Phillips & Drew is predicting a modest rise in institutional cashflows to £23.6 billion. However, with Kuwait shouldering the bulk of the £2.26 billion BP burden, privatization-related cash calls drop to £3 billion compared with £7 billion last year.

An absence of gilt funding, combined with nervousness about equities means that institutional liquidity could rise by £5 billion from £16.5 billion at the end of 1987 to £21.5 billion at the end of 1988.

Thus, institutional liquidity could reach 91 per cent of the year's cash inflow. At these levels—the last time it was as high as this was in 1974—many institutions will want to start running down their cash balances.

Campeau 'not raising Federated bid'

Washington (Reuters) — Federated Department Stores, involved in negotiations with RH Macy and Co on improving the terms and conditions of its takeover offer for Federated, last night said a Campeau Corporation statement had stipulated Campeau would not sweeten its rival bid for Federated.

peau Corporation, the Canadian group, sent to the Federated board on March 24, said: "Campeau is not increasing its price. It believes its price is already too high."

Federated quoted the statement in a filing with the US Securities and Exchange Commission.

"This does not mean that you can give Macy's a chance

to jigger its bid, or take any other action with respect to Macy's without giving Campeau a fair opportunity to respond," the statement concluded, according to Federated.

Federated said the Campeau statement had been read verbatim to its board of directors.

Campeau is offering \$82 a

share for up to 70.5 million Federated common shares, with the remainder to be converted into \$37 a share in a merger.

Macy is offering \$77.30 a share for about 80 per cent of Federated's common stock, with the remainder being paid in the shares of a combined Macy-Federated entity.

THE NEW HIGH YIELD

CATER ALLEN GILT INCOME FUND LIMITED

12.7% GROSS (CURRENT YIELD)



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It already enjoys substantial assets and delivers an estimated annual yield of 12.7% distributed gross every quarter. Just one of the pedigree products on offer from our offshore arm, Cater Allen Jersey. The Cater Allen group has extensive experience in gilt management, a long established role as a discount house at the heart of the London money market, and an envied reputation as a gilt-edged market maker.

So why not have a word with your Financial Adviser. After all, now we're talking, shouldn't you be?

CATER ALLEN JERSEY, CATER ALLEN HOUSE, COMMERCIAL STREET, ST. HELIER, JERSEY, CHANNEL ISLANDS. TELEPHONE: 0534 78898. PART OF THE CATER ALLEN GROUP.

• fox chased, a Cum divided, a Cum
 much split, a fox much split, a Cum all
 any two or more of above, a fox all any
 two or more of above, a hearing of
 valuation days: (1) Monday, (2) Tuesday,
 (3) Wednesday, (4) Thursday, (5) Friday,
 (6) 25th of month, (7) 2nd and 3rd of
 month, (22nd) 1st and 2nd Wednesday of
 month, (23rd) 30th of month, (34th) 3rd
 Tuesday of month, (35th) 4th and 5th
 Thursday of month, (36th) 4th Tuesday of
 month, (37th) 1st Wednesday of month, (38th)
 1st and Thursday of month, (39th) 2nd and 3rd
 day of month, (40th) 16th of month, (41st) 1st
 working day of month, (50th) 25th of
 month, (51st) 1st day of February, May, August,
 November, (52nd) Last working day of
 month, (53rd) 15th of month, (54th) 1st
 of month, (57) 21st of month, (58) 2nd
 Wednesday of month, (59th) 3rd
 Wednesday of month, (60th) 3rd

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES OTHER STERLING RATES

Flowgram = μ , Outgroup = ψ . **Real and Barclays Bank HOFEX**

FOOTNOTES

Base Rates %: Clearing Banks 8% Finance Haa 9%	Dollar CDs (%)
Discount Market Loans %	1 mth: 5.65-5.60
Overnight Mktg: 8% 1 mth: 8 1/2% 3 mth: 9%	3 mth: 6.75-6.70
	6 mth: 6.50-6.45

EURO MONEY DEPOSITS %

Trade Bill (Discount %)	Deutschemark:	3 1/2-3 3/8	3 1/2-3 1/2	3 1/2-3 1/2	3 1/2-3 1/2
1 mth: 9 2 mth: 9 3 mth: 9 1/2	Call: 3 1/2-2 1/2				
6 mth: 10 1/2					

Local Authority Donations (Mk)

Local Authority Bonds (%)
1 mth: 0%-0% 2 mth: 0%-0% 3 mth: 0%-0%
4 mth: 0%-0% 5 mth: 0%-0% 6 mth: 0%-0%
7 mth: 0%-0% 8 mth: 0%-0% 9 mth: 0%-0%
10 mth: 0%-0% 11 mth: 0%-0% 12 mth: 0%-0%

12 mth: 9%-0
Avg rate: £3,300%
Next week: £100m
replace £100m

	Open	High	Low	Close	Vol
Three Month Sterling				Previous open interest 28720	

[illegible][illegible]COMMODITIES

Received	Mar 945-895	Dec 1011-1011	Unit price/volume previous day	Fidelity Wolf
C. Most	May 958-857	Mar 1034-1031	(2/Volume)	
Wash.	Jul 974-974	Mar 1034-1031	Cash	3 months

Mar 1112-108	Nov 1212-209	Zinc Hi Gals	585.00-598.00	575.00-576.00	27375	Steady Firm
May 1141-140	Jan 1234-230	Silver Large†	660.00-683.00	670.00-676.00	36325	

0-36.00		Cashman	Nickel*	2780-2790.0	2380.0-2400.0	21900	Quiet
0-36.00	FOR	Vet 2898		22000-22500	17550-17600	6300	Strong
0-17.00	May 200.2-99.8	Dec 198.0-98.0	† (Cents per Troy oz.) * (\$ per tonnet)				

WHEAT close (C/U) Vol 124
 May 104 15 N 104 15 N 104 15 N

(mm)	My 104.20	Jl unq.	Sp 97.85	Aug	92.00	90.80	GB (+/-)		
Close	Nv 100.60	Ja 102.85	Mt 104.60	Oct	93.50	93.50	Eng/Wal (%)	-3.14	+3.10 -1.30
							Fra/Hol	-5.8	+11.2 +30.7

Aug 126.5-25.5	Apr 133.0-29.0	Aug	Scotland (+)	n/a	185.76	110.58
Oct 127.0-26.0	Vol 151	Vol 151	Scotland (+/-)	n/a	3.81	-0.05

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INTEREST RATES ROUND-UP

investment in the environment

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0HD; Merlin Fund Management, 30 St
James's Street, London SW1A 1HR

[illegible]

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— — — — —

[illegible]

FAMILY MONEY/3

Your changing charge

POLL TAX

Poll tax, the new community charge being introduced to replace the present rates system — often referred to as a tax on people rather than a tax on homes — is being introduced to a largely sceptical public next year.

It starts in Scotland in April next year, and an expected average of £200 will be levied on everyone who is over the age of 18.

The new community charge will be brought in piecemeal in England and Wales during 1990. The only exceptions are some of the London boroughs, which will phase in the change over four years.

Everyone over 18 will have to contribute a minimum of 20 per cent of the charge apart from certain exempt groups, including long-stay hospital patients and prisoners. So all but 500,000 of the 38.3 million adults in England and Wales will have to pay the tax, including the unemployed and students.

To counter the argument that the wealthy benefit to the detriment of the larger poorer families, the Government points out that 50 per cent of the cost of local services is funded from national taxation and 25 per cent by businesses

and institutions. So on average the highest-paid 10 per cent of households will contribute 15 times as much to the costs as the lowest-paid 10 per cent.

At present only 18 million of the 35 million people entitled to vote contribute to the rates system.

Opponents of the new community charge ask how

Businesses pay national rate

checks can be made on the so-called "floating" population. For example, in London and other big cities, where many young people move from flat to flat or squat to squat, only the most idealistic person will be naive enough to believe that the new scheme will be free of abuse.

Businesses will pay the poll tax at a nationally fixed rate and the income will go into a central fund for redistribution. This seems a fair system.

At present it appears that, although the national average payment will be between £200 and £300, those fortunate enough to live in the Isles of Scilly, contributing well under £100 a head, will pay less than any other UK citizen. Meanwhile, people in the London borough of Camden will be

paying around three times the national average.

The 250,000 people who own a country cottage, seaside flat or a town apartment as well as their principal residence have been dealt with in rather a summary way.

If a family owns two homes the community charge will be payable by all adult members of the household in the area that contains their main residence. This is defined as the one registered with the Inland Revenue as their principal home. The poll tax charge on the second home will be entirely at the discretion of every individual local authority.

The standard community charge set by the local authority is not levied on every adult occupying a second home, but rather the local

Larger houses may rise in value

authority will multiply the individual charge by half, one, one and a half or two.

It may even charge nothing at all. So, obviously, if that authority wishes to encourage second home ownership, with its attendant spin-offs, it will charge accordingly less.

The councils that feel sec-

ond-home ownership should not be encouraged may well choose to charge the maximum permitted — twice the set rate.

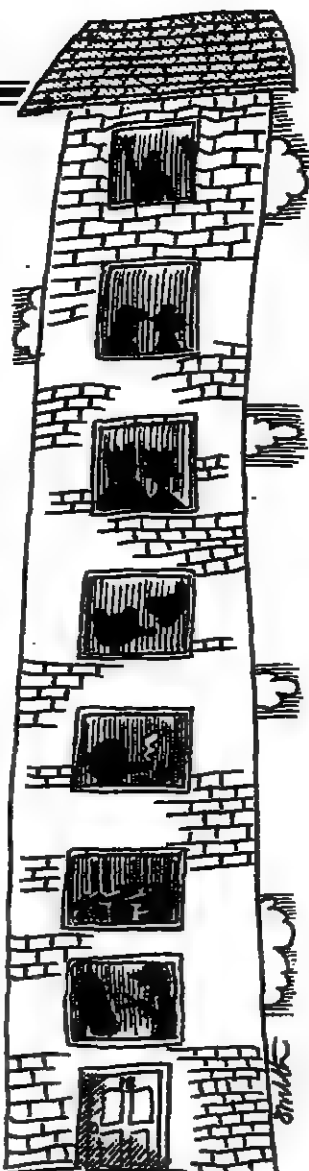
A by-product of the new system could well be an increase in the value of expensive larger houses. Under the present rating system these owners expect to pay more than the occupier of a small flat. Should each be occupied by two adults, irrespective of the number of young children the payment will be the same, thus substantially reducing the annual running costs of the larger property.

● The Woolwich Building Society says the poll tax will increase house prices initially by 11-15 per cent over five to six years. The argument is that rates represent 15 per cent of total housing costs, and a reduction in this cost will lead to an increase in demand for housing and therefore in prices.

This compares with the government estimate of a 5 per cent increase in house prices over 10 years.

Diana Wildman

A free booklet, *Paying For Local Government*, is available from the Public Enquiries Unit, Department of Environment, 2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 3EB (01-212 3434)



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Shrunk head but expanding profits: a West End winner

An answer to the angels' prayers

The angels who dipped into their pockets to finance the revival of *South Pacific* in the West End are laughing all the way to the box office.

The show, claims the producer Ronald S. Lee, has recouped its costs faster than any other West End musical. After just nine weeks, the backers have had their stake money returned and are now looking forward to a long run of profit-sharing.

This *South Pacific* is no stingy production — it has 39 in the cast and 26 musicians — but costs were kept down by starting the show on the road to the 1,100-seat Prince of Wales Theatre in a subsidised theatre, the Theatre Royal, Plymouth.

"The *South Pacific* accounting statement is enough to make Broadway legit showmen weep with envy," says *New York's Variety* magazine.

The show was capitalised at £750,000, but, says Mr Lee, it would have needed more like £2.5 million if the run had not started in Plymouth, which has its own scenery-building

facilities. The production paid the Plymouth theatre the difference between the cost of mounting one of its normal productions and the lush *South Pacific*. The theatre also becomes a co-producer and gets a percentage of the profits from the London run.

In the West End, where seats cost up to £20, the show is generating a weekly £50,000 profit on turnover of about £130,000. Now the show has recouped its costs, investors get 60 per cent of the profits, and the producers — Mr Lee, the Theatre Royal, Plymouth, and Eddie Kukulnits — take 40 per cent.

Some of the investors put in as little as £1,500, but some contributed a great deal more. "I put in a hefty piece of change myself," says Mr Lee. Anyone who put in £12,500 would be entitled to 1 per cent of the profits.

The management is hoping for a two-year run and is also mounting revivals of *Bridgton* with a cast of 40 and *Carousel* with a cast of 50.

Vivien Goldsmith

Rescuers pay out £100 bonuses

Special payments averaging £100 each are to be made soon to people who held policies with London Indemnity & General Insurance Company (LIGI), which was snatched from jaws of receivership more than 10 years ago.

LIGI, originally part of Jessel Securities, which itself went into liquidation in 1976, ran into difficulties in the mid-1970s. It was rescued by a consortium of insurance companies and Barclays Bank in 1974. The Prudential took over the administration of the business and management of its investments.

The consortium discovered a substantial shortfall in assets and there was a 10 per cent reduction in benefits payable to policyholders. Most of the policies were income bonds.

Since the rescue the Prudential managers have succeeded in reversing many of the ill-judged investment decisions that contributed to LIGI's downfall, with some help from the long bull run, so that there is now a £5 million surplus to hand back to investors.

Some will go to the 50,000 policies that have run their course in the past 14 years, and there will also be some

small improvements on the 3,000 policies still in force.

Dick Barton, the Prudential's deputy actuary, said the recovery supported the argument advanced at the time of the LIGI rescue, that it should be allowed to continue and not be put into liquidation.

Mr Barton said the *ex gratia* payments would start at £5 but the average would be £100. The task of tracing all the eligible policyholders would be "formidable" and inevitably some payments would not be reclaimed. If the unclaimed amount was large enough, it would be redistributed to the policyholders who had come forward.

Letters about the payments will go out in two or three weeks' time and the offer of the *ex gratia* payments will be open for two months from the date on the letter.

The Prudential will post the letters to policyholders' last recorded addresses but will make some attempt to trace those who do not reply. It is also appealing to those who think they may be eligible to write to LIGI at Dept LIGI/XS, Forbury House, 18-20 The Forbury, Reading, Berkshire RG1 3ES.

Maria Scott

MORGAN GRENFELL

UK EQUITY INCOME TRUST

The UK Equity Income sector was the top performing unit trust sector in 1987, with an average increase of 14.0%*.

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Estimated Initial Gross Yield is 5.25%.

Remember the price of units, and the income from them, may go down as well as up.

*Source: Plannet Savings, figures relate to the period 1st Jan 1987 — 1st Jan 1988. Offer to bid. Net income reinvested.

UNIQUE LAUNCH OFFER During the 3 week Fixed Price Offer of 100p per unit until Monday, 11th April 1988, and while stocks last, investors purchasing units worth £5,000 or more in UK Equity Income Trust will receive a special Morgan Grenfell Personal Portfolio Folder of the highest quality.

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Joint holders should give names and addresses and sign on a separate sheet of paper.

Please do not use this application if you have already telephoned this order.

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Dealing Units may be bought or sold back to the Managers any working day between 9.00am and 5.00pm by instruction in writing or by calling 01-826 0826. A contract note will be sent within 24 hours. A certificate will be despatched 10 days after receipt of cleared funds and sale proceeds within 7 days from receipt of remitted certificates. Prices and yields appear daily in the Financial Times, The Times, and The Daily Telegraph. Units will be priced daily. Remuneration is paid to qualified intermediaries. Rates are available on request. **Charges** Prices and yields are determined using the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) formula. An initial charge of 5.15% is included in the offer price; the annual charge is 1.25% + VAT. The Trust Deed permits a maximum annual charge of 2% + VAT subject to 1 month's notice. **Income** The Estimated Initial Gross Yield is 5.25%. Accumulation and Distribution Units are available. For Accumulation Units the net income is accumulated whereas for Distribution Units it is distributed. In both cases this takes place on 30th November and 31st May each year, in respect of the periods ending 2 months earlier starting on 30th November 1988. Tax is deducted at the prevailing basic rate before distribution or accumulation and a tax voucher is sent to investors. **Trusted Options** The Trust Deed contains provision for the Managers to write Trusted Options subject to the limitations laid down by the DTI. **Trustee** General Accident Executor and Trustee Co. Ltd, 10th Floor, 42-47 Minster, London EC3N 1BS.

MORGAN GRENFELL

UNIT TRUSTS

The new way into Morgan Grenfell asset management skills.

Member of the Unit Trust Association

Here's a fairly straightforward way to pick up £400,000 spending money for your retirement.

Of course, if you decide you want it sooner, it'll be that much harder.

THESE DAYS, many people have one or two thousand to invest — sometimes even five or ten — which is why you've probably noticed that everyone is busy offering you all kinds of ways to invest your money.

But you've got a funny feeling that most of them care about lining their own pockets, a lot more than they care about you. And — you know enough to realise that many of the smooth sales pitches you see are simply designed to part you from your hard-earned savings. And so, you've thought about taking some advice from your bank manager... or an accountant... maybe even a newsletter "guru". Or how about that latest "hot tip" from your brother-in-law?

But then you know enough to be uncomfortable about all of that, too. So you've been trying to figure things out for yourself from magazine articles, and the adverts in the papers...

Total confusion.

IN THE END, you wind up doing what most people do... nervously dabbling in a bit of this... a bit of that. Knowing — as you do it — that it won't bring you anything but sheer frustration... paperwork... tough decisions to make... more paper.

"But I don't bother with any of that," you hear people say. "I'd rather do it the easy way. When I put away £1,000 of my savings, I get my nice, safe 7%, or whatever — so I make £70 profit... with no worries."

True — no worries. But no profit either. One way or another, the taxman will probably take about £30. And if you think inflation went away, think again. Last year it was running at 3.7% — so you just lost another £37. In the end, you wind up making maybe £5 or £10 on your £1,000, if you're lucky.

So... what to do? If you think about it, you probably already know that there is only one answer: you have to learn how to look after yourself if you're not going to be left behind... if you're going to be able to prosper — and protect your savings at the same time.

NOW, IN A MINUTE, you'll see why that's not nearly so difficult or "chancy" as it used to be — even if you've never invested in anything more than a savings account or pension scheme before.

First though, here's just one of the ways to accumulate that £400,000 nest-egg: For the sake of this example, let's say that you're about 35 years old — and you've learned how to get, say, a 13% return on your money. What you need to do in this case, is to find about £15 a week to invest.

Surprise, surprise — what with compounding — that's all you have to do to get your £400,000 when you retire! (You can see why some people call compound growth "The 8th Wonder of the World".)

Now, even though this might sound pretty attractive, as soon as you start to realise that it's all perfectly possible — you're likely to start looking for a way out! Asking yourself questions like —

"Where am I going to get £15-a-week from, when I can hardly even keep up with the house payments?"

Or —
"Anyway, I'm older than 35."

Or —

"I don't know how to get a 13% return."
Or —
"I don't want to wait 'til I retire for that kind of money."

And so on...
In other words — the usual excuses. But now, there is no reason for these so-called "problems" to get in your way.

YOU SEE, there is now the unique, practical, "hands-on," self-instruction course — **SUCCESSFUL PERSONAL INVESTING**. The learn-at-home programme with just one purpose: to reveal the surest and most effective investing and money-management techniques — in plain English. And in such a way that it can be immediately understood.

At your own pace — in a short series of non-technical lessons that get right to the point — the **SUCCESSFUL PERSONAL INVESTING** course shows you how to accomplish these 3 important steps:

First — you'll quickly see how to "uncover" up to an extra £2,000-a-year to invest — money you probably don't even realise exists...

Second — you'll be surprised how easy it is to learn how to evaluate only those investments that are right for you. The important areas are all carefully covered... from Shares... to Gilts... Building Societies... Tax cutting... Property... Pension Plans... everything.

Third — and maybe most important — you'll learn about a number of simple but crafty "behind-the-scenes" techniques that you usually don't get to find out about, the kind that can often boost returns to 20, 30, even 50% or more — sometimes in months — not years...

Here's an example for you. (Don't worry if you don't fully understand it — it's all carefully explained in the SPI course.)

YOU MAY HAVE BEEN AWARE some months ago that gold was starting to move up slowly — and everybody was busy advising everybody else to buy, buy, buy...

In the meantime a number of people quietly observed all this furious activity. And waited patiently for the real opportunity they knew would soon come.

(You see, simply buying gold when everyone else is buying, is a mug's game — a speculative gamble. The chances of an amateur getting out with a decent profit after paying sales commissions and taxes, are very slim.)

No — here's what you might have calmly done in the same circumstance, using just one little snippet of information from the SPI course...

You would have bought silver. Yes, silver.

Why? Because you would have been aware of these two simple facts:

FACT NO. 1: the price of an ounce of gold is always higher than the price of an

ounce of silver.

"Big deal," you say. "Everybody knows that." Well, yes, but you would have combined that with:

FACT NO. 2: an ounce of gold is worth about 45 times the price of an ounce of silver. (You would also know that this difference in price is sometimes called the ratio or "spread.")

Now, at the time gold had started to move up you would have spotted that the spread between gold and silver had already drifted up to 70 instead of being around the more normal 45.

So, quietly watching the situation develop, and with gold starting to move up steadily (which would widen the spread even more) you'd know silver would have

to shoot up dramatically to "close the gap" again and bring the spread back to near normal. Sure enough, within weeks, silver took a spectacular leap — and the spread narrowed obediently back down from 70 towards 45 — raking in tidy profits of 81% and more.

By the way, you'd also know that you could have made almost exactly the same gains by buying not silver itself, but silver "futures," for just 15% of the cost of buying "real" silver. (And no VAT to pay either!)

And you would know, too, that when gold is going down, you can play the same game — but in reverse.

Now remember, this is just one example (fully explained in SPI Lesson 9) of what are known as the "reaction-opportunities" that usually occur only once, sometimes two or three times a year.

And what about last October when the stockmarket took a dive? Everybody lost their shirts, right?

Not so. Some people were smart enough to be sitting pretty with "insurance" against a fall: Index Options that would net £5,000 for every point, just in case the share index dropped. In just one day, the index dropped almost 60 points. (That's right, that really does mean a £300,000 windfall.)

And index options are fairly simple to understand — you can learn all about them in Lesson 9.

SO, AS YOU CAN SEE, the **SUCCESSFUL PERSONAL INVESTING** course is definitely not some collection of "hot tips" or "get-rich-quick" schemes, or boring technical mumbo-jumbo.

You'll find that each lesson is no more difficult to follow than a kitchen recipe, where all the necessary ingredients are listed and the preparation described in logical, step-by-step sequence.

You'll see exactly how and why each technique works... how to spot the signals that will tell you when and how to act... how to protect your gains against a drop in the market... when and how to "pyramid" your excess profits... In other words, all you need to know, even if you've never bought a single share in your life.

And consider this: when you learn a few of the ways to increase that 13% return by two or three points, well it's not just a £400,000 nest-egg any more... it's more like £600,000 or £700,000. And that's serious money. That's worth spending a bit of extra time on.

NOW — LET'S TAKE A NICE SAFE investment like a new Government Gilt issue. And let's say you decide to buy £500 worth. After a while — as well as paying you interest — they move up nicely to £585.

"Not bad," you say, "I just made 17% on my money."

But what you would have known from Lesson 8 is that you could have bought the same Gilts on "margin" — meaning, in effect, that you could have bought twice as many Gilts for your £500 — and you would have doubled your profits to 34%!

Now, margin buying may not be your cup of tea, but you should at least know how it works. It's simple and effective know-how like this that helps make the SPI course what it is.

Bear in mind, too, that *Independent Research Services* is not connected with any investment broker or insurance company or the like... nor with any commissioned salesmen or agents. So you can be absolutely sure that what you will learn will be for no one's benefit but yours.

YOU'LL PROBABLY FIND you want to spend a couple of hours a week with the course lessons — but think about this — most people spend more time planning a fortnight's holiday than learning how to manipulate their money.

True, money isn't everything — but it does help. And by learning how to use the practical know-how and techniques described in the SPI course you'll be giving yourself an excellent chance of being well on the road to financial independence in a few years. And with some luck thrown in, in ten years time you may no longer have to think about working for a living...

But where does all this get you now? What's the first step?

Well, if you're at least interested in just seeing for yourself — you can now get to look over the first two lessons in your own home, for 10 days:

Here's how the **SUCCESSFUL PERSONAL INVESTING** programme works:

- Two lessons will be made available every 4 weeks or so, for £7.35 each, plus postage.
- You may review each of the 27 lessons in the course for 10 days — at no charge — and "pay-as-you-go" only for those you decide to keep.
- You can cancel this arrangement at any time, and drop out of the course whenever you want.

On this basis, please send me the first two lessons. I'll review them at no charge. Then, I'll either send them back — or pay for them only if I decide I want to continue.

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Peter Oppenheimer is a private investor and Chairman of the IRS Advisory Board. His former associations include J. Rothschild Investment Management, Royal Dutch/Shell, and the Bank for International Settlements in Switzerland. He served with The Royal Commission on Legal Services, and lectures at Oxford University.

DEREK H. ALDCROFT, PhD

Much of Derek Aldcroft's considerable success as an investor is due to his personal don't-follow-the-crowd approach — and his special know-how in Gilts and Property investing is particularly effective. He is Advisor to several public companies and a recent entry in *Who's Who* in Economics.

WALTER SINCLAIR, F.C.A.

Walter Sinclair is one of the country's leading tax experts and National Tax Partner with Kidsons. His unusual knack for identifying and explaining simple, effective tax-cutting strategies has made him the best-selling author of a number of popular tax guides. He also contributes to numerous publications including *The Times* and *The Daily Telegraph*.

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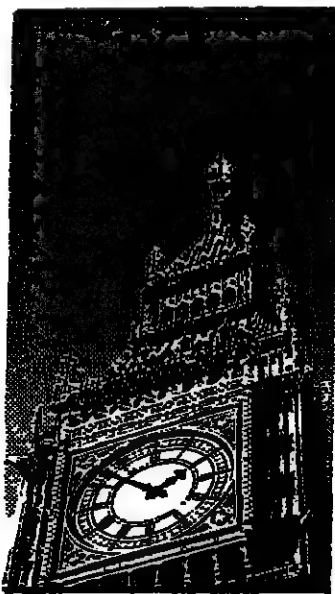
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FAMILY MONEY/5

Means test could end a nightmare

Home improvement grants for the disabled are an administrative nightmare, and the Government is keen to find a new way of sharing out the grant money.

At the moment, owner occupiers and private tenants can get help with equipment and adaptations from social services under the Chronically Sick Disabled Persons Act 1970, and from housing authorities under housing legislation primarily through home improvement grants. Public sector tenants also have access to social services help and to their local authorities.

Owner occupiers and private sector tenants may be offered either an "intermediate" grant, which is mandatory, or an "improvement" grant, which is discretionary. If the disabled person's home lacks a standard amenity — such as a suitable inside toilet — a mandatory intermediate grant will be awarded. As long as the total cost does not exceed the "eligible expense limit", the applicant can get up to 75 per cent of the cost of the work, or up to 90 per cent in cases of hardship.

Grants can be used to adapt

a home to make living with the disability easier — this can cover building a downstairs bedroom, bathroom and toilet, or redesigning a kitchen for use by a wheelchair-bound person. The combination of discretionary "percentage of costs" grants and "eligible expense limits" means that the system is restrictive and far from fair as some people cannot afford to pay even a small proportion of the cost.

Grants framework is essential

The 75 and 90 per cent figures are normally maximums and, although local councils are asked to give sympathetic consideration to the disabled, they have a discretion to pay a lower percentage. The discretion recognizes that authorities with scarce resources and almost no rationing mechanism — that is, means-testing is rarely part of the norm — must be given a framework for ensuring that as many customers as possible are at least served in part, especially where the grant is mandatory. Indeed, many authorities

are now concentrating their resources purely on mandatory grants and refusing applications for the discretionary home improvement grants.

The present eligible expense limit is £10,250. Yet the cost of both the examples quoted — a downstairs extension or a kitchen adaptation — would be much more. Even in a hardship case that would involve an element of means-testing, the most the applicant could expect would be £9,225 (90 per cent of £10,250). In practice 90 per cent is rarely awarded.

A ground-floor extension for bedroom, bathroom and toilet costs from £20,000 upwards depending on local building costs and the state of the foundations.

Those in need can apply for "topping-up" funds from social services departments. But they are likely to carry out their own means test.

Understandably, people with disabilities feel showed from pillar to post with little success or satisfaction. It is no wonder that disability-related organizations are trying to devise a way to simplify the system, target money fairly where it is most needed, and follow the Environment Department's thinking.

The Centre on Environment for the Handicapped has put forward proposals, including making all grants discretionary.

Expenditure on mandatory grants can never be opened, so without means-testing expense limits will always have to be applied and applicants will never get a 100 per cent grant. The customer making costly adaptations, therefore, will always have to apply to social services or seek private finance to pay the rest. To make matters worse, tax relief on private loans will be abolished from April.

The Centre on Environment for the Handicapped also believes that all grants

Government may agree to trade-off

should be means-tested because it is the simplest and most effective form of targeting as much money as possible to those in most need. The Environment Department is willing to end the expense limit or raise it substantially. But some alternative mechanism for rationing must be established.

If the proposals of the Centre on Environment for the Handicapped were accepted, the applicant whose adaptation is a £20,000-plus extension would receive a 100 per cent grant, provided the means test was passed.

This might be compatible with the new Housing Benefit regulations, with an added threshold of, say, £10 per week for ordinary repair grant assessments. Most severely disabled people — and therefore those more likely to need costly adaptations — have limited income and should pass the means test.

The Environment Department may agree to an extra adaptation grant in exchange for abolishing mandatory grants. This would bring many more people into the system than a straight Housing Benefit assessment, and it shows, positive discrimination in favour of those people with disabilities.

Charles Jackson



An adapted kitchen that is just right: out of reach for many

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1964	£73	£2096	"	"
1963	£91	£2505	"	"
1962	£104	£2978	"	"
1960	£124	£3454	"	"
1977	£206	£5908	"	"
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1961	£117	£1351	"	"
1979	£115	£1300	"	"
1978	£129	£1709	"	"
1976	£145	£2581	"	"
1974	£201	£3770	"	"
1973	£156	£2471	"	"
1972	£202	£3786	"	"
1970	£234	£3747	"	"
1969	£212	£3092	"	"

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Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator

For readers who may have missed a copy of *The Times* this week, we repeat below the week's *Portfolio* price changes (today's are on page 29).

Share No.	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sunday
1	+5	+2	+4	+3	+4		
2	+4	+4	+3	+2	+3		
3	+3	+8	+5	+2	+3		
4	+8	+4	+2	+3	+4		
5	+4	+3	+4	+2	+2		
6	+7	+7	+5	+3	+2		
7	+3	+7	+4	+3	+2		
8	+5	+8	+5	+3	+2		
9	+2	+5	+3	+3	+2		
10	+4	+2	+4	+3	+2		
11	+4	+8	+2	+2	+1		
12	+4	+2	+7	+4	+5		
13	+7	+3	+2	+5	+2		
14	+3	+8	+2	+3	+1		
15	+3	+7	+4	+2	+1		
16	+7	+5	+7	+7	+2		
17	+5	+1	+5	+5	+2		
18	+3	+4	+3	+2	+1		
19	+3	+8	+2	+5	+2		
20	+2	+8	+8	+6	+1		
21	+4	+1	+7	+4	+5		
22	+5	+8	+5	+4	+1		
23	+2	+3	+3	+2	+2		
24	+5	+5	+5	+3	+4		
25	+8	+5	+2	+3	+1		
26	+5	+8	+3	+2	+2		
27	+4	+3	+4	+3	+2		
28	+2	+3	+4	+5	+2		
29	+4	+5	+2	+2	+3		
30	+7	+4	+2	+4	+4		
31	+3	+4	+3	+2	+3		
32	+4	+4	+3	+3	+3		
33	+8	+5	+3	+5	+2		
34	+8	+2	+5	+6	+5		
35	+2	+3	+3	+3	+1		
36	+4	+4	+2	+2	+2		
37	+5	+7	+2	+7	+4		
38	+4	+5	+8	+2	+1		
39	+8	+5	+4	+3	+2		
40	+7	+3	+3	+3	+1		
41	+6	+3	+4	+4	+1		
42	+2	+3	+3	+2	+1		
43	+7	+3	+3	+5	+2		
44	+3	+4	+2	+5	+1		

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The Officers' Union accepted this need and reached an agreement with us; the NUS called its men and women out on strike.

Because of this strike, P&O European Ferries regret that they will not be able to run any ferry services from Dover to Calais, Zeebrugge or Boulogne over the Easter Period.

We apologise to our passengers for the disruption and hope our normal services will be returned as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

Peter Ford
Chairman
P&O European Ferries (Dover) Limited

it could
nightmare

More
movement
come?

10-25

102



LEGAL AND FINANCIAL

Ready to go over the top on the dreaded A-day

A furious flurry of activity has broken out in solicitors' firms up and down the country: countdown to A-day has started. The day - dreaded by some, eagerly awaited by others - that the Financial Services Act 1986 comes into force will finally arrive at the end of April; the actual date has yet to be announced.

For some it marks the climax (but by no means end) of months of preparation; for others, only now waking up to the Act's implications, a nasty shock.

A sign of growing alarm comes in this week's *Law Society Gazette*: Stephen Gerlis expresses the "considerable concern" of his local law society in West London that the Law Society headquarters has not issued clear guidance "in comprehensible language" as to what work solicitors should avoid if they are to escape having to register under the Act. Without it, he gives warning, his society will seek counsel's opinion on the matter.

Clearly the temptation to escape the Act's controls are great. But like it or not this may prove difficult. Walter Merricks, an assistant secretary general at the Law Society, says it "would not be useful and could be positively dangerous" to try, even if possible, to give guidance that might encourage firms to try to practise without authorization.

Big City firms not the most interested

"The act is so widely drawn that many of the typical activities of a solicitor's firm either come within, or are capable of coming within, the Act." To carry on normal practice without authorization would require considerable knowledge and sustained care to ensure nothing amounting to investment activity was ever carried out by anyone in the firm.

So it looks as if nearly all, if not all, solicitors' firms will be caught. What does this mean in practice? It means that any firm which gives investment advice - and this is broadly drawn under the Act - must be certified to carry on its business.

There is a temporary breathing space: all firms are initially authorized to carry on investment business under the Act by the society, itself approved as a Recognized Professional Body with responsibility for the rules solicitors must comply with and for monitoring that compliance. By the summer though, firms will have to make their own applications for registration to the society and pay their fee.

Thus far most solicitors are aware. But from there on, there is a huge gap between what firms can and have done

This April the Financial Services Act 1986 comes into force and solicitors are regarding its imminent arrival either with trepidation or keenness, depending on their preparations, says Frances Gibb

in readiness for A-day. Charles Maggs, of the Law Society, says: "The firms most interested (from the standpoint of the new areas of financial advice work it opens up) are not the big City firms. Many of them don't do investment business and would pass on clients wanting advice to a stockbroker, for instance."

It tends to be the larger firms outside London and the non-City firms, who see themselves as providing a wide range of services to the client and more as looking after their affairs."

The firms likely to have most trouble are the smaller firms which do just a little investment business and where "the amount of energy they have to invest in understanding the rules is disproportionate to the work involved."

Peter Bagwell Purefoy, of Thomson Snell and Passmore in Tunbridge Wells, is typical of the provincial firm itching to get into the financial advice market. Bagwell Purefoy is author of the solicitor's key tool in complying with the Act: the Law Society's own guide - a sort of car manual - to its "Solicitors' Investment Business Rules 1988," due out next month; and he is comfortably optimistic.

"The view I take is that the Act will not be nearly as much of a problem as some people say." The Act, he says, merely requires solicitors to do what they have always done but in a "rather more structured way."

Records will have to be kept differently: "the way in which one receives and gives instructions will have to be kept in a central register, for example." For a firm of any size which has not already got one, this will mean a computerized data base.

Extra red tape aside, the Act gives firms like his a chance to move right into financial advice work. Any solicitor under the Act will be able to do so-called "discreet investment business" (that is,

extra to his everyday work) and remain within the Law Society's rules, if this does not exceed 20 per cent of income.

Firms which want to do more must apply to another SRO for authorization under the Act. Thomson Passmore has already done just this so its two "hived off" companies, one in insurance broking, the other investment management, can operate freely. And on the basis that many of the big City firms will want to pass on such work, he believes it could provide a new link-up for client referral between the provinces and the City.

For the City firms the Act signals rich rewards in other respects. Already it has proved a massive work-generator just in advising clients on the compliance aspects and implications and most firms have several partners working on the Act full-time. Linklaters has 19, plus 43 assistant solicitors, for example; Cameron Mackay five.

Tim Herrington who heads a 15-strong team of FSA specialists at Clifford Chance after his secondment to the Securities and Investments Board, is occupied full-time in advising clients. This alone is fraught with problems: "We are faced with the extremely unsatisfactory nature of the proposed rules as they stand, and we still don't even have the final rule books from some self-regulatory organizations."

Actions brought to test the Act in the courts

Accountants tell the same story. Deloitte Haskins and Sells has handled "well over 100 assignments" advising clients on the Act in the past year, while Peat Marwick is spending £980,000 on training its own staff in the Act and estimates it will spend another £500,000 to set up and organize its own compliance.

And this is just the start. When the Act comes into force, there will be actions putting it to the test in the courts; and under its new provisions, damages claims - which can be brought on a group or "class" basis - for alleged breaches of the rules where loss is suffered.

Lord Hacking, of Richards Butler, says the Act is full of difficult and complex definitions: the next step will be testing how these operate in practice and "first and foremost, whether the advice to clients on what is investment business is right or not."

It could lead to endless debate. As Mr Herrington puts it: after A-day, "we will not be packing up our bags and doing something else." We have not really woken up to what it means.

European Law Report

Recognition of foreign judgments

Hoffmann v Krieg (Case 145/86)

Before Lord Mackenzie Stuart, President and Judges G. Bosco, G. C. Rodriguez Iglesias, T. Koopmans, K. Bahlmann, R. Joliet and T. F. O'Higgins Advocate-General M. Darmon (Opinion July 9, 1987) [Judgment February 4]

The Brussels Convention contained no rule requiring a judge of a state in which recognition of a judgment in another state was sought, to make the effect of a judgment of that state granting a divorce subject to the recognition of that judgment in the state of origin of a foreign decision on maintenance.

The parties were German nationals who had married in 1950. In 1978 the husband left the matrimonial home in the Federal Republic of Germany and settled in The Netherlands. On August 21, 1979, the Amtsgericht Heidelberg, ordered the husband to pay the wife maintenance.

On application by the husband the Arrondissementsrechtbank (district court), Maastricht, dissolved the marriage by a default judgment of May 1, 1980, applying German law, in accordance with Dutch rules.

That divorce judgment, which fell without the scope of the Brussels Convention on Jurisdiction and the Enforcement of Judgments in Civil and Commercial Matters (OJ No L 304 of October 30, 1978, p.36), had not been recognized in the Federal Republic of Germany at the material time.

On July 29, 1981, the President of the Arrondissementsrechtbank, Almelo, granted the wife an order for enforcement of the maintenance order of the Amtsgericht, Heidelberg, in accordance with article 31 of the Brussels Convention.

On February 28, 1983, the wife obtained a garnishee order against the husband's employer. The husband applied to the President of the Arrondissementsrechtbank, Almelo, for a provisional lifting of the order.

He was successful at first instance. However, on appeal the Gerechtshof (Appeal Court), Arnhem, rejected his application. He then appealed to the Hoge Raad der Nederlanden (Supreme Court of The Netherlands) which stayed the proceedings and submitted five questions for a ruling.

In its judgment the Court of Justice of the European Communities held as follows:

The Convention was intended to facilitate, so far as possible, the free movement of judgments and was to be interpreted in that spirit. The recognition of a foreign judgment under article 26 of the Convention should have the authority of giving decisions the effect and effect they had in the state where they were delivered.

In the light of the circumstances of the main proceedings, the second question sought in

substance to determine whether a foreign decision which was accompanied by an enforcement order issued in a contracting state, pursuant to article 31 of the Convention, was to be enforced in all cases where it remained capable of enforcement in the state of origin, even where in accordance with the legislation of the state in which enforcement was sought, enforcement could not be ensured.

In the present case, the decision whose enforcement was at issue ordered a husband to pay maintenance to his wife. Consequently, it was necessary to examine whether the dissolution of the marriage, declared by a court of the state in which recognition was sought, could prevent enforcement of the foreign decision, even in the case where the latter remained enforceable in its state of origin, in the absence of recognition of the divorce decree.

In that regard it was to be noted that paragraph 1 of the second indent of article 1 of the Convention excluded the status of natural persons from its scope and that the Convention contained no rule requiring a judge of a state in which recognition was sought to make the effect of a judgment of that state ordering a divorce subject to recognition of that judgment in the state of origin of a foreign decision on maintenance. That finding was confirmed by article 27(4) of the Convention.

It followed that the Convention did not prevent a judge of the state in which recognition was sought from drawing the consequences of a national judgment declaring a divorce in the context of the enforcement of a foreign maintenance order.

The third question sought in substance to establish whether a foreign decision ordering a husband to pay maintenance to his wife was irreconcilable, for the purposes of article 27(3), with a national decision which dissolved the marriage of the spouses or whether such a foreign decision was contrary to public policy in the state in which recognition was sought within article 27(1).

The provisions whose interpretation was requested laid down the grounds for not recognizing foreign judgments. Under the second paragraph of article 34, those were the same grounds which justified refusal of enforcement.

Recourse to the public policy provision, which was to be made only in exceptional cases, was in any event excluded where, as in the present case, the problem submitted was that of the compatibility of a foreign decision with a national decision since that problem was to be resolved on the basis of the specific provision of article 27(3), which dealt with the case where the foreign judgment was irreconcilable with a judgment given in a dispute between the same parties in the state in which recognition was sought.

In order to establish whether a judgment was irreconcilable for the purposes of that provision, it was necessary to examine whether the decisions in question led to legal consequences which were mutually exclusive.

It appeared from the file that in the present case an enforcement order had been granted in respect of the foreign maintenance order at a time when the national decision declaring a divorce had already been delivered and had become *res judicata*, and that the main proceedings related to the period following the divorce.

In those circumstances the decisions in question led to legal consequences which were mutually exclusive. The foreign decision which necessarily presupposed the existence of a matrimonial bond, would have to be executed although the bond had been dissolved by a decision given between the same parties in the state in which recognition was sought.

The fourth and fifth questions sought to establish whether article 36 of the Convention was to be interpreted as meaning that a party who had not brought proceedings against the order for enforcement provided for in that provision could, at the stage of enforcement of the decision, no longer raise a valid objection which he might have raised in the context of an action against the order for enforcement, and whether that rule was to be applied automatically by the courts of the state in which recognition was sought.

In order to reply to those questions, it was necessary to recall first that, in order to limit the requirements to which enforcement of judgments given in contracting states might be subject in another contracting state, the Convention had provided a summary procedure for granting of an enforcement order, which might only be refused for reasons set out in articles 27 and 28.

Nonetheless, the Convention merely regulated the procedure for obtaining an order for the enforcement of foreign enforceable instruments and did not deal with execution itself, which continued to be governed by the domestic law of the court in which execution was sought.

Consequently, the enforcement of a foreign decision with an enforcement order took place in accordance with the procedural rules of the national law of the judge concerned.

It followed that means of appeal available under national law were excluded where an appeal against enforcement of a foreign judgment accompanied by an enforcement order was brought by the same person who could have brought an appeal against the application for enforcement and was based upon a reason which might have put forward a valid objection which it could have raised in the context of an appeal against enforcement, and that rule was to be applied automatically by courts in the state in which enforcement was sought. However, that rule was not applicable where it would have the consequence of requiring a national judge to subject the effects of a national judgment which fell outside the scope of the Convention to its recognition in the state of origin of the foreign decision whose enforcement was in question.

lead to a calling in question of the enforcement order outside the strict time limit laid down by the second paragraph of article 36 of the Convention and as a result would deprive that provision of its purpose.

The imperative nature of the time limit laid down in article 36 required the national judge to ensure that it was observed. It was therefore for him, of his own motion, to declare an action inadmissible where it was based upon national law where such an action would lead to a re-opening of that time limit.

That rule, which followed from the scheme of the Convention, could not however be applied where, as in the present case, it would require the national judge to ignore the effects of a national divorce decree, which was excluded from the scope of the application, on the ground that that judgment could not be recognized in the state of origin of the foreign decision whose enforcement was in question.

On those grounds the European Court ruled:

1 A foreign decision recognized pursuant to article 26 of the Convention should, in principle, produce the same effects in the state in which enforcement was sought as it had in the state of origin.

2 A foreign decision which had been granted an enforcement order in one contracting state pursuant to article 31 of the Convention and which was still enforceable in the state of origin, could not continue to be enforced in the state in which enforcement was sought where, according to the legislation of that state, enforcement could no longer take place for reasons which fell outside the scope of the Convention.

3 A foreign decision ordering a husband to pay maintenance to his wife pursuant to his obligations of maintenance following from a marriage, was irreconcilable, for the purposes of article 27(3) of the Convention, with a national decision decreeing a divorce between the spouses concerned.

4 Article 36 of the Brussels Convention was to be interpreted as meaning that a party who had not brought an action against the enforcement order provided for by that provision could, at the stage of enforcement of that decision, no longer put forward a valid objection which it could have raised in the context of an appeal against enforcement, and that rule was to be applied automatically by courts in the state in which enforcement was sought. However, that rule was not applicable where it would have the consequence of requiring a national judge to subject the effects of a national judgment which fell outside the scope of the Convention to its recognition in the state of origin of the foreign decision whose enforcement was in question.

First three rounds will be crucial for McAuliffe

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TENNIS: ARE MEN DISCRIMINATED AGAINST WHEN PRIZE-MONEY IS DISTRIBUTED EQUALLY?

When women are the winners

From Rex Bellamy
Tennis Correspondent
Key Biscayne, Florida

Steffi Graf, who beat Chris Evert 6-1, 7-6 in the Australian final, will play her again — on a similarly hard surface — in the women's singles final of the Lipton championships. This is the second of five fortnightly mixed tournaments played during the year. The singles winners receive £64,000, the losers half that.

The disquieting feature of the prize-money, not that it is unusual these days, is that, in semi-finals and finals, the women receive the same rewards as the men. The women play shorter matches, but some sort of case can be made out for giving them equal pay in the final — particularly as this one involves the world's No. 1, Graf, and a Florida heroine who has probably been the most consistently successful player since Suzanne Lenglen.

The disquiet arises when we ask whether Mary Joe Fernandez and Stephanie Rehe, the teenagers who won only seven games between them in the women's semi-finals, can possibly be worth as much (£16,000) as the losers of the men's semi-finals, in which the pairings were Mats Wilander v Yannick Noah and Miroslav Meir v Jimmy Connors.

Even if the seedings had worked out as they were supposed to — Graf v Hana Mandlikova and Gabriela Sabatini v Evert — the question mark, if less emphatic, would still have been there. It



Exit Mary Joe: Chris Evert powers her way to victory over Mary Joe Fernandez and another confrontation with Steffi Graf

is always likely that one or two prominent seeds will lose. The difference between men's and women's tennis is in the quality of the players who replace beaten celebrities. Men's tennis is much stronger than women's, comparably, when it comes to players ranked outside the top 10.

Women have a raw deal in the early years of open competition and were justified in demanding more. Briefly, a reasonable balance was achieved. Then the game's

administrators conceded too much. To use the jargon of the day, men are now suffering from sexual discrimination.

Evert won 6-2, 6-1 against a local (Miami) schoolgirl, Fernandez, a part-time professional ranked twentieth in the world. About 150 high-school students were given a half-day off to support Fernandez. They certainly made themselves heard, but Evert did not mind. She recalled that, 17 years ago, her own school mates turned out

in force to encourage her when she was playing Billie Jean King at Fort Lauderdale, Evert's home.

After a tough start, Evert took over because she hit a superb length, consistently close to the line, while playing at a faster pace than Fernandez, whose game could not withstand the stress. The story was much the same in the second match. Rehe began well, playing to the limit of her present ability. Then Graf, whose forehead was as formidable as ever, began to demand more — and Rehe could not stay with her. The score was 6-3, 6-1.

As for the final, Evert has failed to take a set from her last five matches with Graf — and it was in this tournament, a year ago, that Graf beat Martina Navratilova and Evert in turn. Each match lasted less than an hour.

RESULTS: Women's singles: Evert v Graf (W) 6-3, 6-1; Fernandez v Evert (L) 6-3, 6-1.

RESULTS: Women's doubles: Fernandez v Graf (W) 6-3, 6-1; Evert v Graf (L) 6-3, 6-1.

RESULTS: Men's singles: Connors v Wilander (L) 6-3, 6-1; Sabatini v Evert (L) 6-3, 6-1.

Grass-roots game goes indoors

By Rex Bellamy

The Duke and Duchess of Kent opened a four-court indoor tennis centre at St Albans yesterday. A city rich in history has thus made a further claim on the attention of posterity. The centre is the first product of the £22.5 million Indoor Tennis Initiative (ITI) jointly backed by the Lawn Tennis Association, the All England Club, and the Sports Council.

By the end of the year the ITI will have created 41 new courts and 10 community tennis programmes. The geographic spread will be admirable, with St Albans, Swindon and Islington representing the South; Sunderland, Warrington and Wigan the North; Bournemouth and Swales the West; and Nottingham and Solihull the Midlands. All except Nottingham (six) and Solihull (three) will have four courts.

The ITI is a five-year development programme that envisages 50 new centres (including this year's) by the end of 1992. The potential benefits to British tennis are incalculable, because the game has long suffered from

an acute shortage of indoor facilities. Only a small minority of players have been able to play throughout the year.

Ian Peacock, executive director of the LTA, says the new centres will be run by local authorities, who had to agree — as part of the deal — that the courts would be used exclusively for tennis for nine months a year, could be booked only on a pay-as-you-play basis (as distinct from membership), and must incorporate a tennis development programme for the local community.

Perhaps the big point is that, as Peacock puts it, "anyone can roll up and say, 'I'd like to play tennis'. Anybody is welcome." This should increase the mass appeal of a sport that has been socially based, almost exclusively, on the middle classes.

Estimated construction costs, varying according to the size of the hall and the type of structure used, range from £87,000 to £652,300. Forecasts suggest that a four-court ITI centre should have an annual income of about £85,000 and expenditure of £78,000.

More detailed estimates for a four-court centre indicate that court fees would provide almost 78 per cent of the annual income, the rest coming from catering, advertising, and a 30 per cent grant towards the development officer's salary. There could be additional revenue from sponsorship, vending and gaming machines, and outdoor courts.

The projected annual expenditure on such a four-court centre forecasts that staff costs would account for about 54 per cent. The variety of costs related to the actual premises would amount to about 32 per cent. The rest would go to promotion, equipment, and such items as stationery and telephones. The cost estimates do not provide for debt charges, depreciation, and possible retainers for coaches.

So much for the detail of the exciting ITI enterprise, which has been launched after much painstaking planning, research, and negotiation. Domestically, the ITI should help tennis to regain some of the ground lost to squash and badminton. Internationally, it should give the

British game a broader basis of recruitment and, obviously, more and better playing facilities.

There is, however, an interesting question mark against the St Albans venture and its future. It is only five miles from the largest club in Hertfordshire, at Harpenden, where there are 1,000 members, three coaches, 17 courts, a host of promising juniors, and ambitious plans for expansion.

Will all that be good or bad for St Albans? Only time will tell. But a tennis-playing club who lives at Harpenden insists that the new centre has hardly impinged on Harpenden's consciousness. "Everything happens here, in Harpenden. St Albans is like another world."

He did add, though, that "tennis is thriving at grass-roots level". In his neck of the woods, it obviously is. A year hence, it will be illuminating to find out where business is better: Harpenden or St Albans. The evidence suggests that this is one area in which the old and new ages of tennis can both thrive, without either harming the other.

Women may get a look in

By David Powell

Women may be invited to play in the Mortgage Corporation National League from next season, John Taylor, a member of the league's panel, said yesterday. The league is seeking ways of strengthening its appeal and it is felt that the introduction of women into the present men-only format, would be the best move in that direction.

Taylor said: "There is a feeling that the league was so successful in year one because it was new but it was more difficult to market in year two. We have got to be seen in the third season to be going forward. The general consensus of opinion among the team managers is that the inclusion of women would be a good thing."

The League would first need to be more, however, than the right players — namely the top British ones — would be available, that they could be fitted into the structure and that the 12 clubs could afford them.

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Thomas puts Witt under pressure

From John Hennessy, Budapest

A superb counter-attack by Debi Thomas, the American champion, has transformed the world women's figure-skating championships into a cliff-hanger. By winning yesterday's short programme in courageous circumstances, Thomas, the champion in 1986, moved to within 0.8 points of Katarina Witt, the diminutive, diminutive Japanese, brought the house down with a breathtaking performance. Hers was the most difficult combination of all, double loop to triple loop, but so early in the proceedings, she had to rest content with marks ranging from 5.6 to 5.9 and was third in the short.

The two British competitors at least showed some improvement on their disastrous experience in Calgary. Joanne Conway missed the combination but otherwise skated well and dropped only one place to eighth. Gina Fulton this time at least survived the ordeal.

Nothing but a flawless performance would have served the American's purpose, since Witt, preceding her in the order of skating, had set a formidable target.

Witt completed her programme without error and her marks, mostly in the range of 5.8 and 5.9, though including a perfect 6.0 from the East German judge, left little room for manoeuvre.

But Thomas, on her 21st birthday, rose brilliantly to the occasion. She was aware that a more difficult combination jump would give her the edge if everything else fell into place.

Both skaters used the same two jumps in the combination but Thomas, placing the optional triple toe loop after the mandatory double loop, was

being the more adventurous. She landed both elements perfectly and from there it was all downhill. Now, assuming no other skater intervenes, which ever of the two wins the free skating this afternoon will take the title.

Much earlier, thanks to her fallibility in the compulsory figures, Midori Ito, the diminutive Japanese, brought the house down with a breathtaking performance. Hers was the most difficult combination of all, double loop to triple loop, but so early in the proceedings, she had to rest content with marks ranging from 5.6 to 5.9 and was third in the short.

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RESULTS: Short programme: 1. D Thomas (US), 2. Witt (GER), 3. M Ito (JPN), 4. J Hennessy (GB), 5. J Hennessy (GB), 6. J Hennessy (GB), 7. J Hennessy (GB), 8. J Hennessy (GB), 9. J Hennessy (GB), 10. J Hennessy (GB), 11. J Hennessy (GB), 12. J Hennessy (GB).

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RESULTS: Free skating: 1. Witt (GER), 2. Thomas (US), 3. Ito (JPN), 4. Hennessy (GB), 5. Hennessy (GB), 6. Hennessy (GB), 7. Hennessy (GB), 8. Hennessy (GB), 9. Hennessy (GB), 10. Hennessy (GB), 11. Hennessy (GB), 12. Hennessy (GB).

RESULTS: Total: 1. Witt (GER), 2. Thomas (US), 3. Ito (JPN), 4. Hennessy (GB), 5. Hennessy (GB), 6. Hennessy (GB), 7. Hennessy (GB), 8. Hennessy (GB), 9. Hennessy (GB), 10. Hennessy (GB), 11. Hennessy (GB), 12. Hennessy (GB).

RESULTS: Overall: 1. Witt (GER), 2. Thomas (US), 3. Ito (JPN), 4. Hennessy (GB), 5. Hennessy (GB), 6. Hennessy (GB), 7. Hennessy (GB), 8. Hennessy (GB), 9. Hennessy (GB), 10. Hennessy (GB), 11. Hennessy (GB), 12. Hennessy (GB).

RESULTS: Final: 1. Witt (GER), 2. Thomas (US), 3. Ito (JPN), 4. Hennessy (GB), 5. Hennessy (GB), 6. Hennessy (GB), 7. Hennessy (GB), 8. Hennessy (GB), 9. Hennessy (GB), 10. Hennessy (GB), 11. Hennessy (GB), 12. Hennessy (GB).

RESULTS: Grand Final: 1. Witt (GER), 2. Thomas (US), 3. Ito (JPN), 4. Hennessy (GB), 5. Hennessy (GB), 6. Hennessy (GB), 7. Hennessy (GB), 8. Hennessy (GB), 9. Hennessy (GB), 10. Hennessy (GB), 11. Hennessy (GB), 12. Hennessy (GB).

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FOOTBALL: THE ARSENAL CAPTAIN'S CONTINUED OMISSION SUGGESTS IT IS ALSO TIME FOR THE ENGLAND MANAGER TO FIND A REPLACEMENT

Uncertainty grows over Sansom's future at Highbury

By Clive White

Kenny Sansom, "rested" from the Arsenal side last week, was given an extended convalescence yesterday when he was again left out of the team to face Derby County at the Baseball Ground today.

With Arsenal's appointment in the Littlewoods Cup final less than a month away, Sansom and Richardson, who has also been injured for the second consecutive week, are more likely to be getting a rest than a return to the club's first team.

In the case of Sansom, at least, his absence will only increase speculation that his days at Highbury are numbered. After his superb performance for England in midweek, Bobby Robson, the national manager, may soon be forced to concede that a player who is considered not good enough for his club can hardly be good enough for his country, particularly one as powerful as England.

Despite last week's dis-

appointing home draw with Newcastle United, Dixon holds on to the right back position while Winterburn holds on to Sansom's No. 3 shirt.

As one illustrious Arsenal career nears its end after some 300 League games, another unveils itself: that of Marwood, the £500,000 signing from Sheffield Wednesday. But a sense of nostalgia is retained by the presence of Stapleton, the former Highbury favourite, who, now in the colours of Derby County, will be making his 450th appearance in the Football League.

While Derby's fortunes have taken a turn for the better with a run of six games without defeat, several of their fellow strugglers will be hoping, nay expecting, that a change of face will bring a change of luck.

Thursday's mad panic to beat the transfer deadline and my your way out of trouble must have left West Ham

feeling rather silly. Having rushed off a cheque for £300,000 to Birmingham City for Dixon, they have to do without him at Old Trafford today because the defender is still serving a suspension.

At least West Ham will not have to wait as long as the English public has done to see Trevor Francis, who is expected to return to League action after an absence of six years for Queen's Park Rangers at Fratton Park, following his free transfer from Scotland's Rangers. It should be just like old times with Mariner leading the Portsmouth attack.

But the men who are most in the firing line today are the first division's two new managers, Mark Lawrenson, of Oxford United, and Bobby Campbell, of Chelsea. Both men will need to give their all if they are to break their new clubs' addiction to failure, knowing that for managers there is, as yet, no such recourse as "rested".

Lawrenson named as Oxford manager

By Clive White

Mark Lawrenson gave up one battle and took on another yesterday when he announced his retirement after a long injury and then his appointment as manager of Oxford United, who are struggling for their first division title.

The news of his submission to an Achilles tendon injury will come as a disappointment and a surprise to Jack Charlton, the Republic of Ireland manager, who was told only 24 hours earlier by Lawrenson that he hoped to be fit in time to join the Republic for the European championship in West Germany in June.

Charlton was led to believe that Lawrenson's return had merely been delayed because skin tissue around the injury was taking longer than expected to heal.

But by accepting the Oxford post in sole a managerial capacity, Lawrenson, aged 30, has forfeited the chance of realizing one of the few ambitions that have eluded him in a hugely successful seven-year career at Arsenal. The Republic will be the poorer for the absence of this world class player who was capped 38 times.

Kevin Maxwell, the Oxford chairman, said yesterday that

Crowning glory for Royals

By Andrew Longmore

Ever since 1893, when the mighty Preston North End beat them 18-0 in the first round of the FA Cup, cup football has not been very kind to Reading. One FA Cup semi-final in 1927 is the closest the Royals have come to Wembley, so it is historically right that the club should be rewarded for its patience in the Slingshot Cup final tomorrow.

In contrast, opponents Luton are making Wembley their second home, this season. They have already booked two victories in the Slingshot and Littlewoods Cup, which is one more than Reading have managed in their 117-year history - and an FA Cup final is only one match away.

But Reading have put out four first division sides already on their way to Liverpool and will be favourites to reach the final. Luton, who have not been in the first division since 1982, are not frightened of adding another to the list. In fact they are delighted because they have ideas rather than the present state of affairs, the foot of the second division.

"We've not got the footballing tradition of some towns and, in terms of our gates, we are still a small club," said his manager, Ian Branfoot, who as a Goosie should know about footballing traditions. "But it is a small club at all. We have a large catchment area and the town is booming."

Branfoot, a former youth team coach at Southampton, became manager nearly five years ago and took the club from the second division in the last few seasons. When they were promoted from the third division in the 1985-86 season they began with a record 13 consecutive wins.

Perhaps inevitably, they have not lived up to that reputation in the harsher regions of the second division, despite spending nearly £700,000 on new players, including a club record £225,000 on Steve Morison from Leicester City.

But Branfoot is unshaken by the big spending image. The club is run along business lines by good businessmen, not by the local butcher, and we will be successful in the end," he said.

Emley's big chance

By Paul Newman

Emley today have the chance to make up for their bitter dismay of a year ago, when a 2-0 home defeat by St Helens Town in the second leg of their FA Vase semi-final cost the Northern Counties East League club a place in the Wembley final.

Emley appeared to have done the hardest part of their task last year when they won 1-0 at St Helens in the first leg. Similarly, this year they have the advantage of having drawn the first leg 1-1 away to Basiley, the Western League champions, last week.

Gerry Quinn, Emley's player-manager, said: "We learned a lot from the experience a year ago. I think we're better equipped now, because we've changed our style. We play more controlled

football, whereas we used to be a bit of an up-and-under team."

Nine of the side from last year are still at the Yorkshire club, which is a tribute to its family spirit. With the exception of two players, the team is run on an entirely amateur basis.

Although Emley is a mining village with a population of only 2,000, the club regularly attracts gates of 300 or more. Apart from floodlights, their facilities are very basic, although there are plans to build a 250-seat stand.

Colin Dymond (Bass North West Counties League) are favourites to win the other semi-final after their 1-1 draw away to Sudbury Town (Building Scene Eastern League) last week.

Charlton v Oxford United

Hucker, on loan to WBA for Oxford United, has been recalled to the Oxford goal because Judge and Hardwick are injured. Charlton is unchanged after two consecutive wins.

Liverpool v Wimbledon

Wimbledon make three changes, two of them enforced, and Gayle starts a suspension. Scialoja, who substituted for the injured goalkeeper last week, continues at right back; Ryan takes over from Jones, who is suspended, and Cunningham returns from a foot injury in place of Cork. Liverpool hope to have Aldridge and Beardsley fit.

Derby v Arsenal

Sansom and Richardson are again omitted from the Arsenal squad which includes Marwood, the new signing, and Davis and Thomas, who were withdrawn from the England under-21 team in midweek. Stapleton, of Derby, makes his 450th League appearance after the club with whom he began his League career.

EQUESTRIANISM

All dressed up and plenty of places to go

Ferdinand, the German-born trainer, made it a double at the dressage, selector trials at Stoneleigh by following his success in the Intermediate II with a victory in the most difficult test, the grand prix (a Special Correspondent writes).

His horse, Giovanni, after some fitting gallops on Warwick manoeuvre, was full of energy but remained obedient and supple to flow through the test with ease.

They finished 14 marks ahead of another trainer David Hunt, who was riding Maud Zenith, the horse who has won some big international classes.

RESULTS: 1. Giovanni (F. Ferdinand); 2. Maud Zenith (D. Hunt); 3. Pindocino (J. Pindocino); 4. Maud Zenith (D. Hunt).



So nice to see you again: Don Mackay, the manager of Blackburn Rovers, brings together his club's two former Tottenham Hotspur colleagues, with whom he hopes to make certain of promotion. Oddie Ardiles (left) who has joined the Lancashire club on loan until the end of the season, admitted that the key to the surprise move was the long standing friendship with Steve Archibald (right). Their friendship had blossomed at Spurs in the early 1980s. Still looking bewildered after Thursday's frantic scramble to beat the signing-on deadline, Ardiles said: "Steve is one of my closest friends and on the phone he convinced me that Blackburn had a lot to offer."

Tottenham reunion at Blackburn

That Blackburn had a lot to offer.

"I found I do not figure in Spurs plans for next season and that helped make up my mind."

Ardiles, who goes into immediate action at Plymouth Argyle, watched a video of last Saturday's 3-3 thriller against Leicester on the team coach journey.

Hirwani tilts the scales

Sharjah, United Arab Emirates (Reuters) - Narendra Hirwani, the young Indian spin bowler, who captured 16 wickets on his Test match debut, played a telling role in the opening match of the Sharjah Cup tournament yesterday.

Hirwani, aged 19, tilted the balance against Sri Lanka by dismissing Mahanama and de Silva, whose third-wicket partnership of 137 had put their team on course for victory. Hirwani initiated a collapse in which the last eight wickets fell for 50, leaving India winners by 18 runs. Sri Lanka were all out for 201 in 49.2 overs in reply to India's 219 for eight off 50 overs.

Williams has last laugh this time

When Wales defeated Germany to reach a semi-final against England's men in the ICI European team championships, Adrian Davies, the Welsh first string, kept fully clothed into the swimming pool of the Dekker Centre, at Warmond, in the Netherlands, promising a history-making performance the next day.

If it is historic to represent one's country in a major Continental event wearing baggy knee-length pants, then Davies achieved his aim. In competitive terms, however, neither the impish Manchester-based player, aged 22, nor his Welsh colleagues could deflect

Higgins profits in-off

Alex Higgins took advantage of a terrible slip-up of quarter-final opponent Cliff Thorburn to move a frame from the semi-finals of the Benson and Hedges Irish Masters at Goffs, Co. Kildare, last night (Steve Atkinson writes).

The Ulsterman, Higgins, had squandered a chance of a 3-0 lead when he missed a simple pink in the third frame.

Cambridge are struck by tonsillitis

Cambridge University suffered a serious setback yesterday when one of their top oarsmen, Nick Grundy, a Blue, went down with tonsillitis and now must be a doubtful starter for the 14th Boat Race next Saturday.

Yesterday morning, Cambridge, in their only outing of the day, reshuffled the crew by moving Nicholas Ames from bow to seven and promoting Duncan Hild from the reserve crew to bow.

Today the 56th Head of the River takes place at 10.30 a.m. and will be contested by 420 crews, including 39 overseas entries. The top ARA crew is strongly favoured to retain the title.

SNOW REPORTS

Depth (cm) U Piste Conditions On Piste Runs to resort Weather (SpM) °C

AUSTRIA: 150 180 good heavy fair snow 3
Kitzbühel 35 180 good heavy fair snow 4
St Anton 220 530 good heavy good rain 4

FRANCE: 180 230 fair heavy fair rain 4
Les Arcs 180 230 fair heavy fair rain 4
Flaine 180 230 good varied good snow -1
Isola 60 150 good crust poor fine 10
Tignes 240 300 good heavy good snow 0
Val Thorens 215 275 good heavy good snow -3

SWITZERLAND: 140 230 fair heavy fair snow 2
Crans Montana 70 250 good varied fair snow 0
Verbier 1,800m 210 good varied good cloud 5

In the above reports, supplied by representatives of the Ski Club of Great Britain, L refers to lower slopes and U to upper, and art to artificial.

SNOW REPORTS

Depth (cm) U Piste Conditions On Piste Runs to resort Weather (SpM) °C

FRANCE: 180 230 fair heavy fair rain 4
Les Arcs 180 230 fair heavy fair rain 4
Flaine 180 230 good varied good snow -1
Isola 60 150 good crust poor fine 10
Tignes 240 300 good heavy good snow 0
Val Thorens 215 275 good heavy good snow -3

SWITZERLAND: 140 230 fair heavy fair snow 2
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TABLE TENNIS

Andrew undermines the rankings

Styket Andrew, the flamboyant British player, has undermined the rankings by beating the world number one, Steve Durrett, in the first round of the European Championships here yesterday.

Andrew, who was not considered for the team event, said: "I went out there trying to prove a point, both to the English and to those who do the European rankings."

He was joined in the third round by his compatriots, Andrew Cooke and Desmond Douglas. Carl Preen, despite half an hour of unprecedented hassle before his contest with the Scottish No. 1, David Hannah, also advanced.

Preen was told by a Czechoslovak umpire that the English brand of rubber which he has been using for five years no longer has official approval.

BRITISH AND IRISH RESULTS: Men's singles: Second round: A Cooke (E) 3-1 J. Hannah (S); 2-1 J. Hannah (S) 3-1 J. Hannah (S); 3-1 J. Hannah (S) 3-1 J. Hannah (S); 4-1 J. Hannah (S) 3-1 J. Hannah (S); 5-1 J. Hannah (S) 3-1 J. Hannah (S); 6-1 J. Hannah (S) 3-1 J. Hannah (S); 7-1 J. Hannah (S) 3-1 J. Hannah (S); 8-1 J. Hannah (S) 3-1 J. Hannah (S); 9-1 J. Hannah (S) 3-1 J. Hannah (S); 10-1 J. Hannah (S) 3-1 J. Hannah (S); 11-1 J. Hannah (S) 3-1 J. Hannah (S); 12-1 J. Hannah (S) 3-1 J. Hannah (S); 13-1 J. Hannah (S) 3-1 J. Hannah (S); 14-1 J. Hannah (S) 3-1 J. Hannah (S); 15-1 J. Hannah (S) 3-1 J. Hannah (S); 16-1 J. Hannah (S) 3-1 J. Hannah (S); 17-1 J. Hannah (S) 3-1 J. Hannah (S); 18-1 J. Hannah (S) 3-1 J. Hannah (S); 19-1 J. Hannah (S) 3-1 J. Hannah (S); 20-1 J. Hannah (S) 3-1 J. Hannah (S); 21-1 J. Hannah (S) 3-1 J. Hannah (S); 22-1 J. Hannah (S) 3-1 J. Hannah (S); 23-1 J. Hannah (S) 3-1 J. Hannah (S); 24-1 J. Hannah (S) 3-1 J. Hannah (S); 25-1 J. Hannah (S) 3-1 J. Hannah (S); 26-1 J. 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Five nations will co-host next rugby World Cup

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

Twickenham will stage the final of Rugby Union's World Cup in 1991. The International Rugby Football Board (IRFB), which concluded its annual meeting in London yesterday, has also decided that the tournament will be hosted by the four home countries and France.

There was a divergence of opinion between New Zealand and Australia, who hosted the inaugural competition last year, over the organization of the next tournament. It was New Zealand's view, stated firmly last June, that one country should be responsible for the future organization. However, Australia saw no reason why the World Cup should not be a joint venture.

The next tournament will be in October 1991, beginning, if necessary, the previous month, and ending early in November. Matches will be played in the five nations, but the final is agreed for Twickenham on the understanding that, should the World Cup return to Britain in 1999, the final then would be in Cardiff.

Before that, however, there will be a review of the tournament following the 1995 event in the southern hemisphere. "The more people who have a hand in staging the World Cup the better," Marcel Martin, the French representative, said yesterday.

The Welsh Rugby Union will, though, host the play-off for third and fourth place, since neither semi-final is likely to be in France, it seems reasonable to assume that

Scotland and Ireland may stage them. But detail has yet to be established and a series of meetings, beginning at the end of April, will determine how the tournament will differ from last year's, particularly regarding qualifying tournaments.

Part of that brief will fall on Keith Rowlands, the first paid IRFB secretary, whose appointment has been ratified. He and Bob Stuart, of New Zealand, are to produce a five-year development plan for the game, one of whose basic tenets will be definition of the needs of the emerging nations. During this last week

Cup semi-final previews on page 42

another 13 countries — Belgium, Denmark, Ivory Coast, Malaysia, Morocco, Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Taiwan, Tunisia, Western Samoa and Yugoslavia — were accepted as associate members, joining the existing nine.

The inaugural tournament left a surplus of more than \$2 million, much of which will go to the host countries for costs already incurred. But the board is confident that, before the next World Cup, there will be considerable commercial interest to help defray costs.

There has been no change in the tournament's schedule; therefore, the first British Lions visit exclusively to Australia next year for a 13-match tour

remains in place. However, the board expressed concern at the movement of players between the two hemispheres.

It has introduced, with immediate effect, a directive that no player may play for a team of another country during his own closed season for 12 weeks following his last match for his regular club. Moreover, the respective unions of each country must agree on individuals appearing overseas.

There has been concern, not only at the number of New Zealand and South African players appearing in various parts of Europe, but Fijians and Tongans playing in New Zealand. Ronnie Dawson, chairman of the tours committee, said: "There are often rumours of contracts made between clubs and players of another union, and this is considered undesirable."

● Other major points:
1. Restrictions lifted on South Africa, who can approach overseas unions to invite players to appear in celebration matches.

2. No change to amateur regulations retrospective for writing books or broadcasting, but individual unions may apply to the board for reinstatement "in certain circumstances" given the passing of a specific period of time.

3. Laws amended to increase free kicks at the expense of penalties, to clarify the tackle law, to forbid penalty place-kicks to touch and restrict the wheeling of scrums.

Allen to France in £1m signing

By Dennis Siggy

Clive Allen, the Tottenham Hotspur and England centre forward, who has been involved in transfers totalling more than £3 million, is to join Bordeaux, the French league champions, for the start of next season.

Bordeaux have agreed a fee of £1 million with Spurs and Allen, who is named in the squad for today's home game against Nottingham Forest at White Hart Lane, yesterday agreed personal terms with officials of the French club in London. He will travel to Bordeaux in the next two to three weeks and the signing formalities will then be completed.

Allen, aged 26, comes to the end of his contract with Tottenham at the end of this season, and the first indication that he was likely to move on came last week when Terry Venables, his manager, discussed a possible exchange deal with Chelsea involving Kerry Dixon.

When Allen joins Bordeaux he will follow Glenn Hoddle and Mark Hateley, his England colleagues, to France. The league's leading scorer last season with 49 goals, he has indicated for a while that a move abroad at the end of his contract might help his career.

He has been linked with clubs in Italy and West Germany. Allen, the son of Les Allen, the former Spurs and Chelsea player and Queen's Park Rangers manager, made his name as a goal-scoring winger. He was transferred to Arsenal for £1.2 million in 1980, but moved on to Crystal Palace to join Venables two months later, in a player-exchange deal involving Kenny Sansom, without playing a league game for the Gunners.

Allen later returned to Rangers, again signed by Venables, in an exchange deal involving Steve Wickes, and was sold for the second time by Rangers in 1984, joining Spurs for £725,000.

His goal-scoring feats last season earned him the Footballer of the Year title and the Professional Footballers Association Player of the Year Award, but this season Allen has not been as impressive and has scored only 13 times.

● Chris Waddle has promised the England manager, Bobby Robson, he will be fit for the European championship finals in West Germany.

Waddle has been out of action for a month after undergoing a double hernia operation, but he said yesterday: "I'll be ready to play in Germany."

The Spurs midfielder player has been limited to 21 club matches this season because he also damaged an ankle playing for England in the September defeat by West Germany.



Set fair: Norman swinging serenely along before tangling with the infamous 17th hole

Norman fails to make it off infamous floating platform

From Mitchell Platts, Ponte Vedra, Florida

The infamous 17th hole claimed another victim in Greg Norman as the second round of The Players Championship unfolded on the Stadium course in brilliant sunshine here yesterday.

Norman began at the 10th hole, moved to the top of the leader board with two birdies in his first three holes but lost his momentum by hitting his ball into the water at the 17th. Norman had scored 66 in the first round but subsequently handed in the 74 so with a 36-hole aggregate of 140 he was three shots behind Mike Reid, of the United States, who attached a 69 to his opening 68 to take the early half-way lead with a seven-under par score of 137.

The island green of the 17th hole resembles a floating platform as it sits surrounded by water save for the narrow path along which the players walk to reach it. A firm, authoritative shot will usually find the target but the hole becomes increasingly intimidating when the wind is swirling around as it was yesterday.

Norman, however, struck an altogether indifferent shot. He watched the ball plunge into the water and he walked disconsolately to the dropping zone where he safely nego-

tiated the shot across the water. Even so, he knew that the short holes, and in particular the 17th, had sabotaged his attempt to take the lead. He had already dropped a shot at the 13th where he took three putts and he frittered away another at the third — his 12th — by leaving his tee shot short of the green.

Sandy Lyle, playing alongside Norman, was always fighting a losing battle follow-

Card of course

Hole	Norman	Lyle	Reid	Woods	Faldo
1	3	4	3	3	3
2	5	4	4	4	4
3	3	4	3	3	3
4	4	5	4	4	4
5	3	4	3	3	3
6	4	5	4	4	4
7	3	4	3	3	3
8	4	5	4	4	4
9	3	4	3	3	3
10	4	5	4	4	4
11	3	4	3	3	3
12	4	5	4	4	4
13	3	4	3	3	3
14	4	5	4	4	4
15	3	4	3	3	3
16	4	5	4	4	4
17	3	4	3	3	3
18	4	5	4	4	4
Total	3,492	3,517	3,365	3,365	3,365

ing his disappointing first round of 77. Fortune has not favoured him over the two days and so for the third time in four visits here he made a premature departure. Lyle, however, is impressed by the course and he can play it as he showed by winning this tournament 12 months ago although it is not everybody's cup of tea.

Severiano Ballesteros aired

his feelings following a first round of 76, insisting that the design of the course is good only for robot-style golf, and Mac O'Grady, who won the Tournament of Champions last year, said after a 79, that he will not return.

That is O'Grady's privilege and Ballesteros, limited by the US PGA Tour rules to making only five appearances on the circuit, may opt in future to exclude this tournament from his schedule. The US Tour proudly proclaims that The Players Championship has the strongest field in golf and that would not be the case if Ballesteros was absent.

The Spaniard was a late starter, along with Ian Woosnam and Nick Faldo, yesterday and it seemed that all three players would be required to break the par of 72 in order to survive. Woosnam and Faldo had scored 74 and 75 respectively in the first round. Ken Brown faced a tougher ordeal following his opening round of 77 although he gave himself a glimmer of hope by playing the first nine in 34 with the assistance of four birdies.

EARLY LEADING SECOND ROUND SCORES (US unless stated): 137: M Reid, 68, 69, 136 at Humbley, 70, 66, D Ford, 68, 69, 138: C Byron, 68, 70, 67, 68, 140: E Flier, 67, 73, 73: G Norman (Aus), 66, 74. Others: 152: A Lyle (GB), 73, 73.

END COLUMN

Morocco mirrors progress in Africa

From David Miller, Rabat, Morocco

In 1974 I attended the African football championship in Egypt. After spending 36 hours in Cairo obtaining accreditation, visiting various offices from which the man with the necessary authority was always absent, I arrived in Alexandria to watch Zaire, Scotland's opponents in the forthcoming World Cup. My accreditation got me a seat in a deck chair on the touch-line next to the man with the sponge. Groucho Marx must have been chairman of the organizing committee.

A formal luncheon had been served, on the opposite side of town, commencing only one hour before kick-off. After the soup, upon the insistent demands of several European journalists, we left the meal for the match. The enduring memory is of the chief Press steward gathering armfuls of abandoned lambchops in a napkin, which he then clasped under one arm while with the other he waved the oncoming traffic out of the way as he directed the Press bus down the wrong side of the street through crowded bazars. We made it: the match, of course, started late.

A World Cup final tournament in Africa was then unimaginable, but times have changed. Tomorrow's final here, in the Mohammed V stadium, between Cameroon and Nigeria concludes the XVI African Nations Cup hosted by Morocco with an efficiency at least equal in some aspects to the World Cup in Chile or Argentina.

Bidding for the 1994 World Cup

Morocco is bidding, as Africa's first contender, for the World Cup of 1994, alongside Brazil and the United States. While it cannot be pretended that the ambitious Arab world stage a five-star tournament, it would certainly be three or even four-star. That is some achievement. It is unlikely that Morocco will be preferred at the decision in Zurich on July 4, but the credibility of African football has been substantially enhanced by this tournament and by Morocco's justifiable self-confidence.

King Hassan II is the main initiator. He has had two meetings with the FIFA president in the past year, and has guaranteed that Morocco will find the necessary finance. The King is inordinately wealthy, and his promise should be taken seriously. Although rural Morocco is still biblically primitive, its major cities are developing fast. The ambitiousness of the project nevertheless remains slightly formidable.

Only two suitable stadiums exist: in Casablanca, and the one here built and donated by the Chinese. The King has said that nine others will be built. The telecommunications system is to be modernized in a deal with Canada. A leasing contract of technical equipment is planned with a French company. There have been 400 journalists at the present championship, with, for the first time, a system of Press centres masterminded by Fekrou Kidane, an Ethiopian exile based in Paris.

Full support from African nations

Abdelatif Semlali, the Minister of Sport, is confident he can handle 2,500 journalists for the World Cup as well as 24 teams. Although Morocco has withdrawn from the Organization of African Unity, they have total African backing. Semlali is perhaps a shade over-optimistic in expecting that Africa and Morocco's other friends will produce a majority among FIFA's executive of 21.

"If FIFA makes a political rather than a football decision, they should still choose Morocco, which would be a historic accomplishment for FIFA," Semlali says.

Semlali says FIFA should avoid distinction between rich and poor. True enough, FIFA has an obligation to support football as well as commercial advantage: though it would be doing both in giving the World Cup to America.

Morocco's case is worthy, but they must avoid embarrassing mishaps. At last week's opening ceremony, only two of nine skydivers landed in the stadium, and one of those was suspended for 20 minutes when snagged on a floodlight pylon. All matches have started late, and the organizing committee was seriously over an hour late for a meeting with Joao Havelange.

Appeal is needed for Oval

The future of the Oval could rest on the success of a public appeal this summer after the government's refusal to give the ground a £1 million urban development grant last year. Though negotiations on sponsorship are still going on and no final decision will be taken until next month, it is now seen as the only realistic way of making up the shortfall in the £5 million rebuilding programme.

"We still need £1 million and the problem is that with 10 per cent inflation in the building industry, the amount is rising all the time. It seems inevitable that we will have to make an appeal," Raman Subba Row said yesterday.

● BRISBANE: Ian Botham, fined for assault and offensive behaviour during an international Australian flight, appeared before a preliminary inquiry into the incident by the Queensland Cricket Association (QCA) yesterday and said he was given a "fair hearing".

Halifax have fight on their hands

By Keith Macklin

It is hard to believe that in the matter of a few weeks Humber's base metal has been turned into gold. Hull go into today's Rugby League Silk Cut challenge cup semi-final with Halifax at Headingley on a wave of confidence, despite the fact that they were derisively written off when the semi-final draw was made.

Hull beat Halifax in a championship game, and then last Sunday shocked Wigan by scoring a last-minute try to beat the Wembley favourites and take two more vital anti-relegation points.

Halifax know that they have a fight on their hands. Their Australian coach, Chris Anderson, is glad of it, because his fear was that his players would become too complacent. Today's game, if Hull's momentum continues, will be a hard fought affair and a look at the Hull squad reveals the power on Humber-

side which has lain dormant until the past few weeks.

In the back division are four men who have played in Wembley finals and scored tries on the famous turf. Wilby Leulua, and O'Hara have touched down for Hull, while Dick, the street-wise and pugnacious scrum half, scored in a final for Leeds. In addition Hull have flown over the Australian, from Balmain, Scott Gale and he will play at centre, with Leulua as substitute back. This is a big risk by Hull, but it could come off.

Against this Halifax have a side just coming to top form at the right time. They have set out their stall to go to Wembley again and in full back Graham Eddie, tipped as their next coach, and forward Paul Dixon, they have two of the outstanding players of the season. There is pace and skill throughout the team, prompted by the lively half-back Grogan, and they can play exhilarating rugby.

Corrupt judges face life ban

Rome (Agencies) — Eight members of Italy's national athletics association (FIDAL) could be suspended for life from officiating at sports events after rigging the result of the long jump at the world championships here last year.

The Italian Olympic Committee (CONI), concluding a three-month investigation, announced that the distance of 8.38 metres awarded to Giovanni Evangelisti on his last jump "was not the one actually reached by the Italian athlete."

Punishments will be decided by FIDAL's federal

council, probably during the first week of April. Primo Nebiolo, FIDAL's president who also heads the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF), said the tribunal "will take into full consideration" the results of the inquiry.

Cheating in sport is not considered a crime and Italian judges who recently investigated the case ruled there were no grounds for issuing criminal charges. Those involved included line judges who measured jumps at Rome's Olympic stadium as well as Luciano Barra, general secretary of FIDAL, and Enzo Rossi, technical director of the national track and field team.

The falsified measure allowed Evangelisti to snatch the bronze from the American, Larry Myricks, who finished fourth with 8.33 metres. Evangelisti, considered one of the best European jumpers, was not accused of any wrongdoing. He repeatedly claimed that he was unaware of any irregularity during the event and that he was ready to hand back his medal.

Television films showed that Italian judges put the marker in the sand before Evangelisti jumped.

Holt refuses to discuss Budd until IAAF talks

From Pat Butcher, Athletics Correspondent, Auckland

The International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) has put an embargo on further discussion of the Zola Budd affair until, in the words of John Holt, IAAF general secretary, "her case is heard at the next council meeting in London on April 15 and 16".

Holt refused to answer questions on Budd at a pre-world championship Press conference here yesterday, saying that the matter was sub-judice, a claim as ridiculous as the charge that Budd is taking part in a meeting in South Africa, even if she turns up as a spectator.

The British Board said yesterday that it had finally received notice from the IAAF

that Budd is suspended, but Holt reiterated that she is "withdrawn pending investigation, and not suspended".

But the strong probability that the IAAF is now going to ban Budd for good was welcomed by the organizers of the All Africa Games (HART) here. Dick Cuthbert said yesterday: "We began our campaign against Budd with two objectives in mind; one to stop her coming here, and two, to break her career; and I think we've won both."

Zola's coach, John Bryant said: "Zola was nothing more than a spectator at the meeting and if that constitutes breaking the rules then it is a new rule she has broken."

Lancashire legionnaire

Auckland — It was permissible, even laudable, to run away from women to join the Foreign Legion (Pat Butcher writes). But the reputation did not get enhanced by running away from opponents. That is, until cross-country became part of the training programme.

And, true to another tradition, the best of the running legionnaires was a Brit, until he took out French citizenship, and made the team of his adopted nation for the world cross-country championships here in New Zealand.

Steve Tunstall comes from Preston and speaks French with a Lancastrian accent. But he did not speak the language at all when he enlisted in the Legion just over four years ago, after two years' training in the British Army Reserve.

"I just went over to Paris to a recruiting centre. I could not speak any French, and I just took a chance. I think everyone joins the Legion for adventure and travel to foreign lands, and I was no different," he said at his Auckland hotel.

Tunstall, aged 23, saw his share of foreign countries before going to base in Corsica, and being persuaded to run cross-country. Coached by his company lieutenant, he immediately won the French military championships, and has repeated the feat for the last three years. But athletic success got him transferred to Fontainebleau, and the Inter-Army Sports School, where he is now coached by Jacques Darras, the French marathon coach.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Joughin fined

Steve Joughin, the professional cyclist, yesterday lost his appeal against a charge of acting in a manner prejudicial to the sport when he orally agreed a contract with one sponsor for this season but later signed for the Ever Ready squad.

The original fine of £1,000 levied on him was reduced to £150 by the British Cycling Federation.

Fighting fit

The former world heavyweight champion, John Tate, could be barred from boxing Noel Quaresima, of Liverpool, on March 30 at York Hall if the British Boxing Board of Control is not satisfied about his fitness.

Real fined

Zurich (AP) — Real Madrid, have been fined \$50,000 for unsportsmanlike conduct by UEFA.



Foreman: avoiding tactics

Foreman out

Las Vegas (AP) — Bob Arum, the promoter, has said that George Foreman has been dropped from a June 6 promotion because he refuses to meet any credible opponents.

High takings

Yorkshire have taken £94,000 in advance bookings for the Cornhill Test between England and the West Indies at Headingley in July and £56,000 for the Test County play game.

Kelly wins

Sean Kelly, of Ireland, won the Catalan cycling week race yesterday after coming third in the 164km fifth and final stage at Andorra in Vella. The stage was won by Inaki Gaston, of Spain.

Monk's award

Nome, Alaska (AP) — Leslie Anne Monk, of England, won the less-than-coveted "Red Lantern" award yesterday for finishing last in the 1,150-mile Iditarod trail sled dog race. She crossed the finishing line in the Anchorage-to-Nome race in 45th place. Seven of the original 52 entries were forced to drop out.

Bowing out

Marin Nordard plays his last Rugby Union match for Nottingham against Cardiff at Beeston today. The centre, aged 31, has decided to retire and has chosen this first meeting against the Welsh side for his farewell appearance. Simon Barnes's Sports Diary, page 8

English spoken here.

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